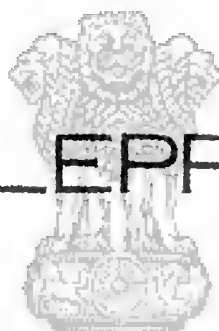


GAZETTEER OF INDIA

KERALA

ALLEPPEY



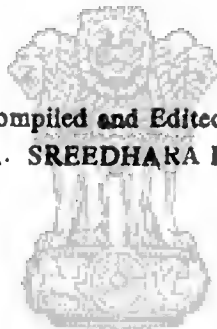
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KERALA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



ALLEPPEY

Compiled and Edited by
Sri. A. SREEDHARA MENON



Published by
STATE EDITOR, KERALA GAZETTEERS

TRIVANDRUM - 10

**Printed by the Educational Supplies Depot, Trivandrum
for the Government of Kerala.**

1975



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

1975 . .

**COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GOVERNMENT PRESSES
AT TRIVANDRUM, ERNAKULAM AND SHORANUR**

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The draft of the Alleppey District Gazetteer was compiled and edited by Sri. A. Sreedhara Menon who was State Editor till June 1968.

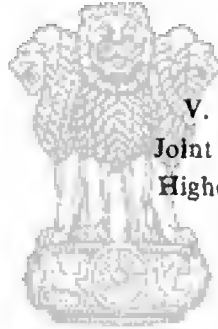
Dr. C. K. Abdul Kareem who succeeded Sri. Sreedhara Menon supervised the arrangements for printing the volume.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation of the valuable services rendered by these officers in giving shape to this volume.

As the officer holding charge of the duties of the State Editor, Kerala Gazetteers it has become my duty to publish this volume and I am doing it with great pleasure.

Trivandrum,
15-2-1975.

V. Bhaskaran Nair
Joint Secretary to Govt.
Higher Education Department.



सत्यमेव जयते

PREFACE

The Imperial Gazetteer of India (1908), the District Gazetteer and the State Manuals published several decades ago have become obsolete and out-of-date. The work of revising and rewriting them is, therefore, being taken up and implemented as a national project by the Government of India, the State Governments and the Administrations of the Union Territories. Under this project the Imperial Gazetteer of India is being revised and published in four volumes under the title "Gazetteer of India: Indian Union", and new District Gazetteers are being compiled for about 335 Districts in the country.

The scheme of contents of the District Gazetteers and the organisational set-up for the implementation of the project have been drawn up by the Government of India in order to exercise unified central direction and control over the project. In July 1958, at the instance of the Government of India, the Government of Kerala in the Education Department approved of the scheme for the compilation of Gazetteers for all the nine Districts of the State and appointed me as the State Editor in charge of the scheme. In February 1959 an Advisory Board for the Kerala Gazetteers was constituted with the Minister for Education as ex-officio Chairman.

The Board reconstituted in December 1967 with the following members was associated with the compilation of this volume.

1. Editor, District Gazetteers, Ministry of Education, New Delhi or his nominee.
2. Dr. A. Abraham, Professor of Botany, University of Kerala, Trivandrum.
3. Shri. K. V. Krishna Iyer, (Retired Lecturer, Guruvayurappan College Calicut)
4. Shri. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pillai, Setya Niketan, Thampanoor, Trivandrum.
5. Shri. K. S. Lekshmana Panicker, Professor of Economics, University College, Trivandrum.
6. Shri. K. C. Peter, Professor of Economics & History, Mar Athanasius College, Kothamangalam.
7. Shri. Syed Mohideen Shah, Shah Manzil, Kurkancherry, Trichur.
8. Dr. V. K. Sukumaran Nair, Professor of Poltic

University of Kerala, Trivandrum.

9. Shri. V. T. Induchoodan, Vallathol House, Cheruthuruthy.
10. Shri. E. Raghava Pisharody, Desabhimani, Kozhikode.
11. Shri. K. Balakrishnan, Editor, Kaumudi, Trivandrum.
12. Shri. K. Mohammed Ali, B. A. L. T., Gujarati School.
13. Shri P. Oosman Koya, B. A L. T., Retired Headmaster
P.O. Kottayi, Tirur.
14. Chirakkal T. Balakrishnan Nair, Chirakkal P.O.
15. The Secretary, Education Department, Ex-Officio.
16. The Director of Archaeology, Trivandrum.

The Alleppey District Gazetteer is the seventh in the series of Kerala District Gazetteers to be compiled and published, the earlier ones being those of Trivandrum, Vrishur, Kozhikode, Quilon, Ernakulam and Cannanore. The scheme of contents of this volume adheres to the pattern laid down by the Central Gazetteers Unit in the Union Ministry of Education, New Delhi. The draft of the Alleppey District Gazetteer was ready in October 1967 and it received the approval of Government of India for publication in March 1968.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all those individuals and agencies who co-operated with me in my work. Some of the sections of Chapter I have been contributed by specialists in the field or by concerned Departments of India. The account on Fauna was supplied by Dr. A.P. Mathew, Retired Professor of Zoology, University College, Trivandrum. Shri. U. Jamal Muhammad, Principal, Government Arts College, Dharmapuri, Madras State, perused the section on Geography and offered his valuable comments. The materials for the sections on Geology and Climate were supplied by the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta and the Meteorological Department of India, Poona, respectively.

I must express my sincere thanks to the members of the Advisory Board for the Kerala Gazetteers who scrutinised various chapters or portions of this volume and helped me with their valuable suggestions. Mention may also be made of Shri P.D. Nair, Retired Director of Agriculture, Trivandrum, Shri. C.G. Gopala Panikkar, Retired Land Commissioner, Trivandrum and

Dr. N. Krishnan Nampiyar, Retired Director of Public Health, Trivandrum who perused the chapters on "Agriculture and Irrigation", "General Administration", and "Revenue Administration", and "Medical and Public Health Service" respectively and offered helpful suggestions. **Shri T. P. Kuttiammu**, Member, State Planning Board, was also kind enough to peruse the section dealing with Irrigation in the Chapter on "Agriculture and Irrigation" and offered valuable suggestions. The section on Fisheries was perused by **Dr. C.V. Kurian** and I am obliged to him also for his comments.

I must also express my thanks to the staff of the District Gazetteers Department who worked as a team and rendered my task less difficult. **Shri. K.K. Ramachandran Nair**, the Research Assistant, who helped me a great deal in collecting material for the various chapters and in giving shape to this volume, deserves special mention. I must also record my appreciation of the services rendered by **Shri. N. Raghavan**, Steno-typist, who was closely associated with me in all stages of the work connected with the compilation and printing of this volume. **Shri. P. Balakrishnan Nair**, Head typist, **Shri. P. Thomas**, **Shri. M. Abdul Rahiman Smt. P. Suloosha Bai**, and **Smt. S. Radhamma**, Typists, **Shri. P.S. Raja Raja Varma**, Clerk and **Sarvasree K. Janardhanan** and **M. Kochahammed Pillai**, Peons, have also co-operated with me in all stages of the work and I must record my sincere appreciation of the service rendered by them too.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not express my thanks to **Dr. P.N. Chopra, M.A., Ph.D.**, Editor, District Gazetteers and the staff of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Union Ministry of Education, New Delhi, for their effective role in planning and co-ordinating the work of preparation of the District Gazetteers. The Unit scrutinised the draft of this volume with great care made several helpful suggestions with a view to improving the standard and quality of the publication. It may also be mentioned here that a portion of the expenditure incurred on the compilation and printing of the District Gazetteers is being met by the Government of India.

Trivandrum,
17th June 1968.

A. SREEDHARA MENON.



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ALLEPPEY DISTRICT GAZETTEER

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT

The Alleppey District derives its name from the location of its headquarters in Alleppey town- Alleppey is the anglicised form of the Malayalam word *Alapuzha*. The origin of the word *Alapuzha* is not quite clear. According to one view it means "a river bend under or near a banyan tree", but the significance of the derivation is not obvious. The word *Alapuzha* seems to be a compound of the words "*Alam*" and "*Puzha*". According to Dr. Gundert *Alam* means 'broad' while some others would make it *Azham* depth. The word '*Puzha*' means river. Considering the geographical position and the physical features of the District, it may be assumed that the word *Alapuzha* means the land between the sea and a net-work of rivers flowing into it.

LOCATION, GENERAL BOUNDARIES, TOTAL AREA AND POPULATION.

The District of Alleppey is situated on the south-west coast of India. It lies between 9° 5' to 9° 55' North Latitude and 76° 17' to 76° 46' East Longitude.

The district is bounded on the north by the Ernakulam District, on the east by the Kottayam and Quilon Districts, on the south by the Quilon District and on the west by the Arabian sea, and at its longest point it extends 31 miles from west to east and 55 miles from South to north. The total area of the District is 708.07 sq. miles, i.e., 4.72 per cent of the total geographical area of the State. According to the Census of 1961 the total population of the District is 1,811,252. In point of area the Alleppey District gets the last rank among the 9 Districts of Kerala while in respect of the population it gets fourth rank.

1 See the Article on "Tamil Names of Places in Travancore" by T. Lakshmanan Pillai in the K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar Commemoration Volume P. 228.

HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT AND CHANGES IN ITS COMPONENT PARTS

The present Alleppey district was historically a part of erstwhile Travancore State. At the time of the integration of the princely States of Travancore and Cochin, there were 3 Revenue Divisions in Travancore, viz., Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam each of which was under a Peishkar. The bulk of the area comprising the present Alleppey District with the exception of the Kuttanad region formed part of the Quilon Revenue Division. With the inauguration of the United State of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 the Revenue Divisions came to be formally called Districts and they were placed under the District Collectors. The new District of Alleppey was formed by the Government with effect from August 17, 1957 (Chingam 1, 1133). It comprised of the Karthikappally, Ambalapuzha, Sherthalai Mavelikara, Chengannur and Tiruvalla Taluks which were formerly parts of the erstwhile Quilon District and of the erstwhile Kottayam District.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUB DIVISIONS

The Alleppey District consists of 2 Revenue Divisions, 14 Firkas 7 Taluks and 99 villages. The Revenue Divisions are Alleppey and Chengannur. The former comprises of the Sherthallai Kuttanad, Ambalapvzha and Karthikapally Taluks and the latter of Tiruvalla, Chengannur and Mavelikara Taluks. Table I gives the Taluk-wise area, population and number of Revenue villages in the District.

Taluk	Population	Area in sq. miles	No. of Firkas	No. of villages
District Total	1,81,252	708.07	14	99
Karthikappally	284,397	90.64	2	17
Mavelikkara	271,601	111.46	2	15
Chengannur	198,846	77.67	2	14
Tiruvalla	305,625	132.85	3	18
Kuttanad	169,219	102.68	2	12
Ambalapuzha	270,037	69.04	1	7
Sherthallai	311,527	123.73	2	16

The Table at Appendix I gives a Taluk-wise list of Firkas and Villages in the District,

TOPOGRAPHY

NATURAL DIVISIONS, ELEVATION ETC.

On the basis of its physical features Kerala State is divided into three Natural Divisions, viz., the low-land bordering on the

sea-coast, the midland consisting of the undulating tract of low hills and valleys east of the low land and lastly, the forest-clad highland on the extreme east. Among the Districts of Kerala Alleppey alone is not bounded by the Western Ghats on the east and consequently it has no high lands. The low-land (narrow coastal belt, with stretches of sand and backwaters forms a considerable portion of the area of this District. Extensive paddy lands and numerous coconut plantations vie with one another in this belt of land. The Taluks of Shertallai, Ambalapuzha, Kuttanad and Karthikapally and the western portions of Tiruvalla, Chengannur and Mavelikara Taluks lie entirely in this region. The midland regions lying to the east of the coastal tract present an undulating country of laterite soil cut across by rivers. In this region rice is the most common crop in the valleys while tapioca is being cultivated in the slopes and uplands.

There are no high hills or mountains in Alleppey District. But there are a few rocky formations in the eastern portions of Chengannur and Tiruvalla Taluks. In Chengannur are the Pandavanpara and Nuttavanpara and in Tiruvalla the Pramadathupara.

The following table gives the area of the District by natural divisions:

NATURAL DIVISIONS			
Natural Divisions	Total (Sq. miles)	Rural (Sq. miles)	Urban (Sq. miles)
Total	708.1	654.9	53.2
Midland	247.1	234.4	12.7
Lowland	461.0	420.5	40.5

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

The Manimala, the Achenkovil and the Pamba, are the rivers that flow through this District, but they are inter-District rivers and do not flow entirely in the Alleppey District. Brief accounts of these rivers are given below:-

THE MANIMALA RIVER

The Manimala river flows through Tiruvalla and Kuttanad Taluks of this District. It has its source in the Mothavara hills in Kottayam District at an altitude of about 4,000' above sea level and follows a south-ward direction of flow. In its course downwards it is joined by the Kokkayar, a stream rising from the Peermade plateau. At Mundakayam, (Kottayam District) another stream

flowing from the left side of the river also joins it. The direction of flow of the river changes and it flows towards west for some distance. The Chit Aar joins the main river at Chenapadi and at about a mile upstream of Manimala (Kottayam District) the Mulaeplackal thodu also joins it. From Manimala, the river flows southwards again, up to Mavelidesam, there it turns westwards up to Vellavur (Kottayam District) where it again restores its original direction of flow up to Kottangal. From there, it turns south up to Vennikulam wherefrom, it traces a south-westerly course till its confluence with the river Pamba at Valanjavattam. A branch of the Manimala river from Mannuabhagam flows along Kavum-bhagam and joins the Pamba river at Muttar.

The length of the Manimala river is about 57 miles and during its course of flow, it passes through the villages of Kalluppara, Kaviyur, Iiruvalla, Talavadi, Kozhimukku and Champakulam in this District. The total drainage area of the river is 310 sq. miles comprising of the Peermade and Changanacherry Taluks of Kottayam District. No gauging of the river had been attempted till 1953. During 1953 systematic gauging of the river was started at Thondara and the records of run-off from that date are available. Based on the available data, the average run-off of the river till Thondara is found to be 71.970 Mcft/sq. mile of catchment. As such the total run-off is estimated as 72,670 Mcft.

THE ACHENKOIL RIVER.

The Achenkoil river (80 miles) flows through the Taluks of Mavelikara, Chengannur and Karthikappally. It is formed by the confluence of several small streams originating from the Pasukia Mettu, Ramakkal Teri and Rishi Malai at altitudes ranging between 2300' and 3800' above sea level. It follows a northwesterly course till Kumbazha and from there it turns west and flows in that direction for a few miles, then southwards for 3 miles and afterwards again resumes its original westerly direction of flow till Idappaman, where it turns north west up to Tazhakkara (Mavelikara Taluk) and thereafter flows westwards. At Taraimukku, the Kuttanperur canal branches off from the main river and joins the river Pamba at Perumala. The river then splits up into several smaller branches and the main branch follows a northwesterly direction and joins the Pamba river at Viyapuram (Karthikappally Taluk). The river is sometimes known by the name Kulakada river also. The total drainage area of the river, otherwise known as the Achenkoil basin, is about 446 sq. miles, covering portions of

the Kunnathur Taluk of Quilon District and Mavelikara, Thiruvalla and Karthikappally Taluks of Alleppey. The important towns in the basin are Pantalam, Mavelikara and Haripad

Systematic gauging of the river was started only in 1953 and the discharge measurements from that date onwards, taken at Pantalam bridge site, are available. The catchment area of the river upstream of Pantalam bridge site is 327 sq. miles. The average run-off per inch of rainfall based on the observations made during 1951 to 1955 comes to 461-76 Mcft. or 60.75% of precipitation. As such, the average run-off of the river up to Pantalam bridge site is estimated as 56,000 Mcft. and the total run-off from its entire drainage area of 446 sq. miles is estimated as 76,000 Mcft

THE PAMBA RIVER

The Pamba river (110 miles) flows through the Taluks of Chengannur, Thiruvalla, Karthikappally and Kuttanad. The third longest river of the State, it is formed by the confluence of the Pamba Aar, Kakki Aar, Arudai Aar, Kakkad Aar. The Pamba Aar is formed by several streams having their origin in the Pulichi Malai, Naga Malai and Sundara Malai in the Peermade plateau at an altitude of about + 5,500' above sea level. As the river flows downwards in a north-westerly direction with a number of falls, and reaches about +1,000 level, it receives some more streams from the Karuvattupara Malai. It then turns and follows a southwesterly course till it is joined by the Kakki Aar at about +550' level.

The Kakki Aar which originates from the Gudarakal Plateau at about 5,000' above sea level flows in a north west direction up to level +1,250' and then for some distance in a westerly direction up to level +70' and then flows north and joins the Pamba Aar. The Chinna Kakkiar which also has its origin in the same plateau at about 5,000' above sea level flows in its initial portions, in a north-westerly direction, and then in an easterly direction to join the Kakkiar at about level +3,000'. The Kakkiar which forms the major tributary of the Pamba river, is a much longer and bigger stream than the main river in the initial portions. The two streams almost flow parallel to each other and are separated by a ridge.

The Pamba river, after receiving the Kakkiar, flows in a westerly direction till it is joined by the Arudai Aar at level +280'. The Arudai Aar originating from the Pambar Malai in the Peermade Plateau at about 3,600' above sea level flows for some distance in a southerly direction, when it is joined by the Panni Aar. From here, the river follows initially a south-western direction and then

a southerly direction, till it joins with the Pamba river near Udampara Malai.

The main Pamba river then flows in a southwesterly direction and meanders through dense forests up to Panachi and Peruntenuvi. At Narayanamuzhi, it turns and follows a south-eastern direction until the Kakkad Aar joins it. The Kakkad Aar is formed by the confluence of the Muzhiar and Manlan Aar which have their origins in the Kakki Aar Malai and Valia Medu respectively. The Pambayar, after it is joined by the Kakkad Aar, flows in a southern direction up to Vadasserikara where it is joined by the Kail Aar, which has its origin in the Valanjakkatti Malai.

From Vadasserikara, the river flows north-west till Ranni (Quilon District) where it turns and takes a south westerly course. The river is known as the Ranni Aar here. The river then follows a westerly course up to Kozhencherry where it again turns and flows in a westerly direction up to Pandanad. Here the river bifurcates and one branch flows to Nirettupuram in a South-westerly direction while the other branch takes a westerly course. The latter branch again bifurcates and rejoins at Pannai after flowing round Parumala. A branch of the Achenkoil river joins the southern branch at this portion. The Manimala river joins the Pamba in its Nirettupuram branch. The river thereafter flows northwards and falls into the Vembanad lake through several branches, the important ones being Pallathuruthi Aar, Nedumudi Aar and Muttar.

The maximum length of the river is about 110 miles with a total drainage area of 763 sq. miles, comprising of portions of the Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Ambalapura and Kuttanad Taluks of this District and Pathanamthitta Taluk of Quilon. The important towns in the Pamba river basin in the Alleppey District are Aranmula, Chengannur, Mannar and Pulinkunnu.

Attempts to gauge the river to assess its water potentialities were made only in 1953. From that date onwards regular gauging is being done at Erapuzha near Chengannur. The catchment area of the river upstream of Erapuzha is 655 sq. miles. Based on the discharge data the average run-off of the river during the years 1953 to 1955 is 174, 757 Mcft. The mean annual run-off of the river is estimated as 191,000 Mcft. or 292 Mcft. per sq. mile of catchment. Total run-off of the river from its entire drainage area of 763 sq. miles is estimated as 222, 796 Mcft.

LAKES AND BACKWATERS

There are two important lakes in this District, viz, the Vembanad Lake and Kayamkulam lake.

VEMBANAD LAKE

The Vembanad Lake is the general name given to the vast expanse of backwater, which stretches from Alleppey to Cochin. Its length is about 52 miles, and its breadth 9 miles in some places, the average width being about two miles. The lake covers an area of about 79 sq. miles. Five important rivers discharge their waters into this lake, namely, the Muvattupuzha, the Minachil, the Manimala, the Pamba and the Achenkoil rivers. All these rivers drain a catchment area of about 2,560 sq. miles, discharging about 5,61,000 Mcft. of water annually. This lake borders the Taluks of Ambalapuzha and Shertallai in Alleppey District and those of Vaikam, Kottayam and Changanasserry in Kottayam District.

The low lying areas of the Vembanad lake along its southern borders have been reclaimed by constructing bunds and dewatering the area within the bunds by pumping. The entire lake is affected by tidal action of the sea, and because of its permanent connection to the sea, the waters of the lake are always saline except during the monsoon. In order to prevent the intrusion of saline water as well as the effect of tides into the lake and the various waterways in Kuttanad bordering the lake, the construction of a bed regulator across the neck of Vembanad lake between Tannirmukkam and Vetchur has been taken up. The Tannirmukkam regulator, when completed, will be the longest regulator of its kind in India.

There are many pretty places along the borders of Vembanad lake, perpetually clothed with beautiful groves of coconut and other trees and with an endless succession of houses, churches and temples. Midway between Alleppey and Cochin stands on its eastern bank the sacred village of Vaikam with a famous Siva temple (Kottayam District). From here to Cochin the backwater is of varying breadths, depths containing small patches of land here and there always adorned with coconut trees.

THE KAYAMKULAM LAKE

This lake is 19 miles long including its expansions at the southern and northern extremities and has an average breadth of a mile and half. It extends from Panmana to Karthikapally and has an area of 23 sq. miles (59.57 sq. k.m.). It is very shallow and has an outlet at the Kayamkulam bar. The Chavara-Panmanathodu connects Ashthamudi lake with Kayamkulam lake. As the Kayamkulam lake is generally shallow, it affords plenty of scope

for reclamation of the lake portion by forming bunds, and draining and dewatering the area by pumping.

ISLANDS

The Vembanad lake in this District has a small beautiful island in the centre known as Patiramanal, or 'the mysterious sand of midnight', filled with coconut plantations and luxuriant vegetation. According to tradition, it was brought into existence by the piety of a Nambuthiri Brahmin, who, while travelling in a canoe, jumped into the lake to perform his evening ablutions. The waters it is said, gave way and land arose from below forming a small island. Pallipuram and Perumpallam are also two other islands in the lake.

SEA COAST

The sea-coast of the District is slightly above 50 miles (81.7 k.m.) long. It is flat and unbroken. At Purakkad and Trikuunnappuzha the sea has made inroads into the coast. The mud bank near Alleppey which is popularly known as 'Chaakara' is an interesting phenomenon; it lies along the beach but extends some miles towards the sea and affords smooth-water anchorage for ships during the monsoon.

The mud bank is very soft and it causes a large extent of smooth water, on the outer part of which vessels can anchor. The fisherfolk can fish here without difficulty when the sea in other parts of the coast is rough. The mud is dark green, fine and oily to touch. The smoothness is probably caused by the oil which the mud has been found to contain. In calm weather this bank is not clearly perceptible.

The Alleppey mud bank shifts its position from year to year. It moves along the coast within the range of 12 (19.2 k.m.) to 15 miles (24 k.m.) from Alleppey proper. In 1894 it was seen off Trikuunnappuzha, in 1903 off Tottappalli, in 1905 off Alleppey, in 1915 off Patiankara, in 1920 off Purakkad, in 1925 at Tumboli, in 1930 again off Alleppey (till 1935) and in 1940 near Ambalapuzha. In 1967 it is off Punnappra. The Alleppey bank is subject to so-called mud volcanoes, which bubble up bringing dead fish, roots and trunks of trees to the surface.

The mud bank or *Chaakara* develops clearly towards the end of June after the backwater is swollen by rain. It has been stated that the cause of this mud bank is the greater elevation (i.e., above the water level) of the vast backwater area over that of the sea. The

hydraulic pressure is believed to force out mud and vegetable matter through the several outlets during the south-west monsoon forming mud banks along the beaches and in the shallow water along the shore. Evidence, it is said, has been found of a subterranean passage of water into the sea from the lake and river system behind the Alleppey-Purakkad coast. Whatever be the origin of this phenomenon the fact remains that the "*Chaakara*" is a regular annual feature of very great importance and it provides an occasion for universal rejoicing and get-together to the fisherfolk from all parts of the Kerala coast.

GEOLOGY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Introduction

The western or coastal tract of the District comprises recent sediments, viz., Alluvium, teris, blown sands etc. The warkali beds, residual laterite and gneisses constitute successive bands lying further east. Each of these formations has a distinctive topographical expression,

The geological succession is given below:-

Recent sediments	}	Recent
Residual Laterite		
Warkali beds		Molene.
Dolerite Dykes	}	Archaeans
Gneisses		

RECENT SEDIMENTS

At Alleppey, Shertallai and other places in the neighbourhood, coherent layer of sand is found to overlies mud. Towards the south the mud is dark brown in colour owing to the presence of ferruginous matter, whereas in the northern areas the mud is very light in colour and is apparently free from ferruginous matter. The mud is highly acid in reaction and sulphurous incrustations have been noted in several areas.

ACIDITY OF THE SOILS OF THE KUTTANAD AREA

The investigation of the Kuttanad area with respect to the reported high acidity of the soils was taken up. The Kuttanad area lying to the south of Vembanad lake and extending over 855.0

sq. km. forms part of the area on the western coast. It is about 1.20 metres below sea level on an average and was uplifted possibly during the late Tertiary period. The sediments consist of alternating beds of loose sands and hard, stiff clay of variegated colours. The southern parts of the Kuttanad area lying to the east of Purakkad and Tottapalli and south of Takazhi are known as Kari lands. In this portion there are a number of occurrences of buried trees locally known as Kundamaram. The trees are found in different sizes, at various depths in the soil and in different stages of alteration or putrefaction. The area is dissected by a number of canals connected to the Vembanad lake with open connection to the sea near Cochin.

Inland exposures of lateritized sands of the Warkali formations commence to the east of an arbitrary line joining Mavelikara R.S. and Changanacherry.

The soils of Kuttanad area and especially those of the Kari lands show, near their contact with surface water, acidity beyond a limit which is usually permissible for agricultural purposes. The acidity is easily traceable to the development of H_2S at the bottom level of the zone of oxidation in the sub-soil and its rise to the surface through capillary pores in the soil and consequent development of H_2SO_4 . The capillary pores are usually coated with rusty (reddish) iron tinge. Some of the dug-up soils after exposure to the sun show efflorescence of yellowish and greenish salts—possibly those of aluminium and ferrous sulphates. The absence of marcasite is notable. Agronomic developments during the last few decades have helped to increase the quality of the soils with respect to crop development. The construction of the Tannirmukkam regulator across the Vembanad lake together with the Tottapalli Spillway already constructed will reduce or avoid the influx of tidal waters and thus will help exclusion of unduly large quantities of Chloride salts in the soils.

The acid brine cannot be expected to be so rich in sulphur as to allow the recovery of sulphur.

MUD-BANK

Reference has already been made to the mud-bank found off the Alleppey coast. The mud bank which constitutes an off-shore barrier, has provided smooth water anchorage for sailing ships, from times immemorial, and has been used by the maritime nations

like the Portuguese, Dutch etc. The material forming the banks is a 'peculiar, very fine, soft, unctuous mud' containing a considerable quantity of foraminiferal and infusorial remains. As already noted, these mud banks are generally stationary, but shift within a limited distance along the coast. They form during the rainy or monsoon seasons when they acquire their stature and shape. During the dry season, the banks flatten out and are less conspicuous. Bubbles of gas and springs are seen to rise from these banks, during the monsoon time, when, mud, decaying vegetation, and sand are thrown out. From these and other considerations, it is generally believed that the banks are formed by the rise in hydrostatic head of the lagoonal waters due to the monsoon floods. This difference in head is taken to be the cause of the fresh water seepage along mud banks.

DOLERITE DYKES

Small dolerite dykes traverse the district in NW—SE and E—W directions (near Changanacherry). They are composed of plagioclase feldspars and pyroxene and show typical oplitic texture.

GNEISSIC GROUP

Gneissic group comprises mica hornblende gneisses and charnockites,

WATER SUPPLY

The borings in Alleppey are about 121.92 metres in depth. Two borings into the warkali beds at Alleppey tapped artesian supplies of good drinking water. The third was saline. The mud bank off the shore at Alleppey deserves attention as a possible source of mineral oil.

GLASS SANDS

There are glass sands deposits in and around Sherialal (9° 41' : 76° 20') on the Alleppey coast. The average thickness of the deposits is about 1.524 metres but the extent is considerable and the sand samples are quite within the prescribed limits for making high quality glass. Black opaque grains of Magnetite and Ilmenite in the sands could be removed by sieving and magnetic separation. The reserves of workable deposits are estimated at about 69.09 million metric tonnes.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

LIGNITIC WOOD

Occurrences of partially lignified wood and wood in various stages of decomposition, have also been noted in the Kuttanad region. It has, hence, not been possible to correlate clearly this formation within the sequence noticed in the Varkala area. Part of it may belong to the Warkali beds. In many cases the wood is fresh and distinctly of recent origin. It has been used locally.

DIATOMACEOUS REMAINS

The mud from the banks of the shore of Alleppey is reported to contain remains of a large number of genera of Diatomacea but not of sufficient purity to be used in infusional earth bearing largely contaminated with clays.

FAUNA

Alleppey District has a long coastal stretch along its west, but where it extends eastwards it reaches only the middle cultivated areas like Tiruvalla and Chengannur but does not extend further east into the mountain ranges and forest areas. So the mountain and forest faunas are characteristically absent from this district. Compensating for this to a certain extent is the vast stretch of backwaters permanently connected with the sea and a number of rivers emptying into them with the characteristic freshwater and brackish water fauna.

Of the Primates (Mammalia) the only representatives are the Bonnet Monkeys, *Macaca radiata*, (Mal. Vella Korangu) which flourish in little herds wherever a patch of scrub and wild trees are still retained particularly in the vicinity of temples and "Snake groves"-*Sarpa Kavvu*.

The Carnivora are also represented only by the lesser types, larger forms being absent, jackals-*Canis indicus*-are fairly common throughout the area while wild cats-*Felis Chaus*-, Civets (*Moschothera*, *Viverricula*) Toddy Cats (*Paradoxurus*) wander far westwards, from the adjoining forest lands. The smaller mammals like the rats (*Mus rattus*), mice (*Mus musculus*) bandicoots (*Tatera indica*) squirrels (*Funambulus*) and Bats (*Chiroptera*) are everywhere. In the backwaters strong Dolphins and Porpoises may be seen engaged in their gambols during the summer months when the salinity of the water is fairly high.

Bird fauna of this district is quite rich. All the types that have been described for adjoining districts are found here except the the typical mountain birds. The more open nature of the landscape and the abundance of food make the birds here, however, more conspicuous. But quite a special feature is the abundance of marsh and water birds—herons, bitterns, paddy birds, snipes, teals and geese, some of which come in during the winter months migrating from the more inclement northern homes while the others appear to be resident.

The reptiles are represented by the lizards, snakes, crocodiles and tortoises. During heavy monsoons occasionally large snakes like the python and some other wild animals may tumble into and be carried by the torrential streams into the lowlands. Only a few years ago the mangrove overgrown marshy banks of the back waters were giving cover for large and mighty crocodiles which have been a source of danger for small boatmen and for the cattle and other animals that may wander near the infested shores. But as the marshes were cleared and the scrubs cut off and a great number of these terrors of the backwaters were shot down, their numbers have dwindled even to the verge of extinction.

The Amphibia include the frogs and toads. There are several species of frogs for which the marshes and lowlands with plenty of water all round the year offer the optimum conditions. The Western regions of this district along with the similar adjoining regions of the Ernakulam District are particularly rich in the large Bull Frog—*Rana tigrina*—whose large and fleshy thighs have in recent years attracted several markets of the East and West as valuable meat. It is fast developing into a lucrative business concern earning much foreign money of course. but with what after effects, can today only be speculated.

Fishes are abundant—marine, brackish water and fresh water types. The coasts especially of Ambalapuzha, Purakkad and Kapphikapally form rich fishing areas while the back waters and the rivers yield an abundance of valuable food fish. One special feature of the fishery of the area is the migration of the much valued cat fish *Wallago attu*, in large numbers from the back waters upstream, along the swift flowing rivers at the first outbreak of the monsoons. This is indeed a migration for breeding- the fishes are rich with fat and highly developed gonads. This migration is taken advantage of by the local people living near the the banks of the rivers and at these periods, rich and poor, young and old, men and

women, rush to the banks with simple improvised-nets to trap a few of the blindly rushing breeding obsessed fishes, braving the rain and the storm. It is seldom that people who go for this "Ootha" as it is called, have to return disappointed.

A curious little fish that appears in the rivers, especially Pamba and its tributaries, during the summer months is the fresh water *Diodon* which has been described and thus made known to science only in recent years, though the local people knew them for centuries. This fish, after the ways of their tribe most of which live in the sea, can when disturbed inflate its body into a perfect ball, swallowing air so that they have earned the name, Puffer fishes. Bathers in the Pamba river are quite familiar with this little fish which when handled swells up into a ball and all the 'fish' characters appear to vanish!

The invertebrate fauna is rich and all the types that have been described for the adjoining districts occur here. One interesting feature that may be worth mentioning is the special type of mosquito that abounds in the arid sandy stretches of Shertallai—Alleppey lowlands, which is known to be the transmitter of the dreaded disfiguring disease of these and adjacent areas known as *Elephantiasis*. The Filarial worm, *Wuchereria malayi*, which is the primary cause of this disease, is carried from one person to another by the mosquito *Mansonioides* sp. In other parts the filarial worm causing similar diseases is *Wuchereria bancrofti* and this latter is spread by the common *Culex* mosquito. In places where the *Culex* mosquitoes are infectious the mosquitoes have been, partially at least, controlled by spreading a film of oil over the tanks and bodies of water where their larvae live; the larvae are thus killed because when they come to the surface of the water to breathe air, oil on the surface gets into the respiratory hites. It was very annoying to the health authorities for a long time that this method was quite ineffective in Shertallai. It was only later that patient biological study showed that the larvae of *Mansonioides* do not go to the surface of the water to take air—they get it by pricking the air cells of the water weed, *Pistia* that grows abundantly in the tanks of these areas.

CLIMATE

The district has a tropical humid climate with an oppressive summer and plentiful seasonal rainfall. The period from March to the end of May is the hot season. This is followed by the south

west monsoon season which continues till the end of September. During October and major part of November southwest monsoon retreats giving place to the northeast monsoon, which lasts till the end of February, although the rains associated with the northeast monsoon ceases by December.

RAINFALL

Records of rainfall are available for 9 stations in the district for periods ranging from 45 to 70 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in tables 2 and 3. The annual rainfall in the district is 2992.7 mm (117.82"). The rainfall increases generally from the coast towards interior of the district. The annual rainfall varies from 2735.6 mm (107.70") at Kayamkulam to 3227.7 mm (132.9") at Arukutty. The district is benefited by rainfall both in the southwest monsoon and the retreating monsoon seasons. The rainfall from June to September constitutes about 61 percent of the annual rainfall, June being the rainiest month. After July the rainfall gradually decreases till the end of September. During October and November when the southwest monsoon retreats, rainfall is mostly from thunder showers. About 19 percent of the annual rainfall is recorded during this period, October showing secondary maximum in rainfall. Comparatively very little rainfall is recorded during the period December to February, February being the month with the least rainfall. Significant amounts of rainfall mostly as thundershowers are recorded during the hot season from March to May, the rainfall gradually increasing with the advance of the season. The variation of rainfall from year to year is small. During the fifty year period 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall amounting to 137 percent of the normal occurred in 1933. The lowest annual rainfall which was 74 percent of the normal occurred in 1905. There were only three years in this fifty year period when the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 percent of the normal. It will be seen from table 3 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 2600 and 3400 mm (102.36 and 133.86") in 37 years in the fifty year period.

On an average there are 135 rainy days (i.e., days with rainfall of 2.5 mm - 10 cents-or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 128 at Kayamkulam to 145 at Tiruvalla. June has 24 rainy days the highest for any month while in January and February, there are only one or two rainy days.

The highest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 274.3 mm (10.80") at Alleppey on 10th April 1950.

TEMPERATURE

There is only one meteorological observatory in the district and it is at Alleppey. The records of this observatory may be representative of the conditions prevailing in the district. The variation of temperature through different months is very small. March to May is a season of gradual increase in temperature. The weather is oppressive in this season due to the higher temperatures and the dampness of the air. However, in coastal areas sea breezes give some relief from the heat. Afternoon thunder showers which are frequent during March to May also bring welcome relief. The period from January to May is the warmest period of the year. With the onset of the southwest monsoon by about the end of May temperatures decrease and throughout the monsoon season weather is pleasant. With the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon, day temperatures increase slightly.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Alleppey was 36.7° C (98.1° F) on 11th March 1949. The lowest minimum was 17.8° C (64.0° F) on 26th December 1944.

HUMIDITY

The air is highly humid practically throughout the whole year. However, the humidities are slightly less during the months from December to April.

CLOUDINESS

Skies are heavily clouded to overcast in the southwest monsoon season and to lesser extent in retreating monsoon season. Cloudiness decreases thereafter and by January and February the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded. In the hot season cloudiness increases particularly in the afternoons.

WINDS

During the period March to October winds are generally moderate in force. In the rest of the year they are generally light to moderate. In the period January to May, winds strengthen in the afternoons. In the southwest monsoon season winds are mostly westerly to northwesterly. In the rest of the year winds are northeasterly to easterly in the mornings and from directions between southwest and northwest in the afternoons.

SPECIAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

Thunderstorms occur on about 30 percent of the days during the period from March to May and in the retreating monsoon season, their frequency being highest in April. They occur occasionally during December to February also.

Tables 4, 5 and 6 give the temperature, humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena respectively for Alleppey.

TABLE
LIST OF VILLAGES

Taluk	Villages
1. Ambalapuzha	1 Purakad
	2 Punnappa
	3 Ambalapuzha
	4 Alleppey
	5 Aryad South
	6 Aryad North
	7 Mararikulam South
2. Shertallai	1 Mattathilbhagam
	2 Pallipuram
	3 Panavally
	4 Mararikulam North
	5 Tanneermukkom South
	6 Tanneermukkom North
	7 Kokothamangalam
	8 Shertallai South
	9 Shertallai North
	10 Vayalar East
	11 Vayalar West
	12 Thuravoor South
	13 Thuravoor North
	14 Aroor
	15 Tycattusseri
	16 Kanjilkuzhy
3. Karthikapally	1 Puthupally
	2 Kayamkulam
	3 Pathiyoor
	4 Keerikad
	5 Kandallloor

4. Kuttanad

- 6 Arattupuzha
- 7 Mutukulam
- 8 Chengoli
- 9 Chepad
- 10 Pallipad
- 11 Veeyapuram
- 12 Cheruthana
- 13 Haripad
- 14 Karthikapally
- 15 Kumarapuram
- 16 Karuvatta
- 17 Trikunnappuzha

5. Mavelikara

- 1 Ramankari
- 2 Muttar
- 3 Veliyanad
- 4 Chennamkari
- 5 Neelamperoor
- 6 Talavadi
- 7 Kozhimukku
- 8 Takazhi
- 9 Nedumudi
- 10 Champakulam
- 11 Pullinkunnu
- 12 Kainakari
- 1 Vallikunnam
- 2 Tamarakulam
- 3 Bharanikavu
- 4 Perungala
- 5 Kannamangalam
- 6 Triperumthura
- 7 Chennithala
- 8 Mavelikara
- 9 Thekkara
- 10 Chunakara
- 11 Tazhakara
- 12 Nooranad
- 13 Palamel
- 14 Pandalam South
- 15 Thonnallur

6. Chengannur

- 1 Kurattisseri
- 2 Mannar
- 3 Chengannur
- 4 Puliyoor
- 5 Cherianad
- 6 Ala
- 7 Venmony
- 8 Mulakuzha
- 9 Kulanada
- 10 Mezhuvveli
- 11 Aranmula
- 12 Vadakkekara
- 13 Pandanad
- 14 Tiruvanvandoor

7. Tiruvalla

- 
- 1 Kizhakkumbhagom
 - 2 Kadapra
 - 3 Nedumpram
 - 4 Peringala
 - 5 Kavumbhagom
 - 6 Tiruvalla
 - 7 Eraviperoor
 - 8 Kaviyoor
 - 9 Kallupara
 - 10 Puramattom
 - 11 Mallappally
 - 12 Anicad
 - 13 Kottangal
 - 14 Perumpetty
 - 15 Ezhumattoor
 - 16 Ayroor
 - 17 Koipram
 - 18 Tottapuzhasseri

TABLE 111
FREQUENCY OF ANNUAL RAINFALL IN THE DISTRICT
(Date 1901-1950)

Range in mm	No. of years	Range in mm	No. of years
2201—2400	5	3201—3400	6
2401—2600	3	3401—3600	2
2601—2800	6	3601—3800	1
2801—3000	11	3801—4000	1
3001—3200	14	4001—4200	1



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TABLE IV
NORMALS OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY
[ALLEPPEY]

Month	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	Highest Maximum ever recorded	Lowest Minimum ever recorded	Date	Relative Humidity	
						0830	1730*
January	31.8	22.4	35.0 1959 Jan 16	18.3	1957 Jan 6	76	69
February	31.9	23.6	35.8 1960 Feb 14	19.9	1960 Feb 14	78	71
March	32.5	25.2	36.7 1949 Mar 11	21.1	1955 Mar 25	77	73
April	32.6	25.7	35.0 1946 Apr 13	21.1	1948 Apr 18	78	73
May	32.1	25.8	35.6 1959 May 2	20.6	1955 May 17	81	77
June	29.6	24.0	34.4 1948 Jan 6	21.1	1956 Jun 30	89	85
July	28.8	23.3	31.7 1953 Jul 1	20.6	1950 Jul 27	90	86
August	28.9	23.7	31.7 1949 Aug 15	21.1	1948 Aug 5	90	86
September	29.4	23.8	32.2 1951 Sep 22	21.7	1960 Sep 21	87	85
October	29.9	24.1	32.8 1946 Oct 30	21.1	1950 Oct 18	84	80
November	30.4	23.9	34.4 1949 Nov 30	20.6	1954 Nov 30	80	75
December	31.3	22.7	35.0 1951 Dec 27	17.8	1944 Dec 26	76	68
Annual	30.8	24.0				82	77

* Hours I.S.T.

TABLE V

MEAN WIND SPEED IN Km/hr.

(ALLEPPEY)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
8.2	8.2	9.8	11.3	12.4	12.9	11.6	10.1	10.6	9.5	9.8	8.1	7.9	10.2

TABLE VI

SPECIAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

(ALLEPPEY)

ALLEPPEY

Mean No. of days with	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Thunder	0.9	2.4	5.8	11.3	9.2	5.2	1.2	0.5	2.2	7.3	8.7	2.8	57.5
Hail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-Storm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Squall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	3.1
Fog	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

The history of Alleppey District forms part of the history of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. The historical geography of the District is of particular interest and significance. A large portion of the present Alleppey District seems to have been under water in ancient days. The coastal Taluks of Shertallia, Ambalapuzha and Karthikapally which form part of the District might have been in the past under water or they might have formed an extensive swamp with sand-banks and mud-banks here and there. Marine fossils including coral reefs have been found below the alluvium at Vazhapalli near Changanacherry and this is considered proof of the fact that the tract was at one time part of the sea¹. The above theory has been propounded by geologists to prove that the elevation of the land from the sea was due to the operation of volcanic or seismological factors. Apart from this, there is also another theory which has been advanced by scholars to explain the phenomenon. The numerous rivers which flow into the District might have brought down in their course immense quantities of silt from the hills while ocean currents might have transported large quantities of sand towards the shore. The coastal belt of the Alleppey District might have thus been formed by the accumulation of silt and sand and therefore, the area might be of more recent origin than other parts of the State.

PREHISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The prehistory of Alleppey District is shrouded in obscurity. There is no evidence of the palaeolithic man having lived in the region². Nevertheless, some old relics reminiscent of the prehistoric age have come to light in the interior parts of the District

1 See the Article on "The Parasurama Tradition" by I. C. Chacko in the Journal of the Rama Varma Research Institute Vol. XII, pp. 1-11

2 H.D. Sankalia definitely excludes Kerala from the palaeolithic map of India. He says "One may say without being contradicted that the early Stone Age man roamed at will along the small and large river valleys almost everywhere in India, except in Assam, Kerala, Sind, Western Rajasthan and probably the Central Gangetic Valley." Indian Archaeology Today, H.D. Sankalia, pp. 35-60

In the Kavumbhagam area of Tiruvalla town old burial jars with iron lamps or swords inside were found in plenty a few decades ago. When the foundation was being dug for the M.G.M. High School, Tiruvalla, a large smooth, square slab of granite was found 5 feet below the ground.¹ Early in the twenties a small granite cellar was found about 7 feet below the ground in the south-eastern yard of the Tiruvalla Taluk Office. Ruined walls and foundations of houses were also found in the area in large numbers. In the Polas-
seri-Cherunallur area of Tiruvalla town, several antiquarian objects such as foundations of old circular shrines and underground quadrangular houses also came to light. While digging a pit for a grave in the Christian cemetery on the hill slope to the southeast of the Mission Bungalow in Tiruvalla, a small granite cellar containing rusty remains of an iron lamp was unearthed about 5 feet below the ground. In Kadapra, a portion of Niranam, there was found 5 feet below the ground a big granite cellar 20 feet square with a covering and floor of granite slabs.² Even as recently as 1965 while earth was being excavated for the construction of a new ward to the C.I.S. Hospital, Kodakulanji (Chengannur Taluk) some old burial jars, with large granite slabs over them, were unearthed from about 6 feet below the ground. On examination they were found to contain broken pieces of jars of the black and red variety.

If the archaeological relics of the prehistoric period are scanty in the District, those of the historic period may be found everywhere and they are of considerable interest to the historian. These archaeological antiquities may be considered under the following heads:—

- 1) Architecture, (2) Sculpture (3) Wood carving (5) Murals
- 5) Coins (6) Inscriptions (7) Forts, palaces and other historical monuments.

ARCHITECTURE

The temples of the Alleppey District represent the Kerala style of architecture. Among the most important of such temples may be mentioned those of Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Kuratti,

¹ Kerala Society Papers, Series II, pp. 59—60

² These details have been taken from the article "Annals and Antiquities of Thiruvalla" in Kerala Society Papers, Series II, pp. 56—86.

Tiruvannandur, Haripad, Aranmula etc. A conspicuous feature of these temples is the central shrine called *Srikovil* which is either square, oblong or circular in shape and consists of one or two storeys over which a sloping roof is built. Each of the temples has its own characteristic structures of archaeological interest. Thus the temple at Haripad has its spacious *Kuthampalam* while that of Tiruvalla its *Garudamandapam*. In the former the heavy span roof is underpinned by solid pillars on which rest strong beams, the weight of the roof being taken off the wooden lattice which forms the walls admitting air and light. The *Garudamandapa* at Tiruvalla is a structure which is unique in its shape and design. "It consists of a threecanopied pyramidal roof decorated with triangular gables having widely projecting eaves and built gracefully, tier upon tier, showing prominently the gable roofs covered over with copper sheeting. As a distinct architectural specimen it has a great value, as the like of it is not found anywhere else in India." ¹ Apart from the typical Kerala style temples, the District has also its own rock-cut or cave temples which can claim considerable antiquity. One of the most interesting of such monuments is the Kaviyur cave temple which may be assigned to the 7th or the 8th century A. D.² It is reminiscent in many ways of the Pallava style of cave architecture. In addition to the Kaviyur cave temple, there is another one in the Pramathupara on the banks of the Pampa river at Nedumprayar. This temple which like the Kaviyur cave temple, is dedicated to Siva is carved out of a steep rock. Nothing is known about the origin of this temple, But it may not be wrong in assigning it to the 10th century A. D.

SCULPTURE

The sculpture of the District is as old as its architecture. The earliest specimens of stone sculpture in Kerala may be seen in the Kaviyur Cave temple itself. The rock-cut figures in this temple

1 Arts and Crafts of Travancore, Kramarisch, Cousins & Poduval, p. 41

2 A. S. Ramanatha Ayyar, formerly Superintendent of Archaeology, Travancore State gives a detailed account of the Kaviyur rock-cut Cave in the Travancore Archeological Series Vol. V, Part I (pp. 1-6). He expresses the view that "the tendency to give the cave a slightly earlier age is justifiable from its close resemblance to early Pallava work." C. Sivaramamurthi in his Indian Sculpture includes the Kaviyur stone sculptures among "the earliest Chera Carvings" and emphasises their resemblance to the similar figures in the Pallava Cave at Tirichirappalli Vide Indian Sculpture, (p. 78)

represent a local branch of the famous Pallaṅga school and may be assigned to the 7th or 8th century A. D. The figure of the donor or chieftain at Kaviyur resembles the Pallava *Dwaraoalas* and has its proto-type in the figure of a Pallava chieftain in the rock-cut Siva temple of Kunnandarkovil in Pudukottai.¹ The figure of the bearded Rishi is extremely natural and life-like and resembles the *Rishi* in the famous 'Descent of the Ganges' at Mamallapuram. There are stone sculptures in almost all major temples but special mention may be made of the Siva temple of Kandiur which contains elaborate but rough sculptured panels of stone made in imitation of wood carvings found in almost all major temples of Kerala.

The stone images of the Buddha in the *Yogasana* posture discovered from Karumadi (Ambalapuzha Taluk), Mavelikara and Bharanikavu in this District are among the finest examples of the 7th to 9th century sculpture. The first of these is known as *Karumadi Kuttan* and its prominent features are the *ushnisha* (top knot) and the *jwala* (flame) on the head and the traces of the upper cloth passing over the chest. In the Buddha image at Mavelikara the *ushnisha*, the *jwala* and the upper cloth worn in the *upavita* sacred thread fashion are very conspicuous. The third Buddha image at Bharanikavu has been very elegantly executed. the upper cloth, especially the many-folded part of it, passing over the left shoulder and lying flat on the chest. The images at Karumadi and Mavelikara are about 3 feet in height while that at Bharanikavu is about 2 feet.

WOOD CARVING

The temples of the Alleppey District are rich in wood carvings. The temples of Chathankulangara, Vettikulangara, Chonakkara, Turavur, Haripad and Kuratti deserve special mention in this context. They contain some of the finest examples of old workmanship in wood, illustrating various puranic figures and themes. The Ramayana scenes carved in the Narasimha temple at Chathankulangara are noted for their remarkable expressiveness and they have been assigned to the 14th century. There are 21 important carvings of Puranic figures and scenes in this temple. Among the most impressive panels here is the one depicting Sita in *Asokavana*. The wood carvings at Chonakkara and Vettikulangara are illustrative

¹ See Arts and Crafts of Travancore, P. 39

of 17th or 18th century workmanship and are equally noted for their high degree of excellence. The most impressive scene carved around the central shrine of the Siva temple at Chonakara are Arjunas' fight with Siva in the form Kirata and the penance of Siva. The whole of the *Bhagavata* is vividly carved out in wood in Bhagavathi temple at Vettikulangara. The Lakshminarasimba temple, Turavur has an abundance of wood carvings depicting puranic themes and figures such as Narasimha, Sastha on horse back, Krishna playing on the flute, Vishnu in *Yogasana* pose, Krishna with the Gopis, Nataraja etc. The Turavur carvings are particularly noted for their remarkable clarity in details. The Kuthambalam at Haripad Subramonia temple is decorated with exquisite wood carvings. The ceiling of the raised platform consists of nine sections. The central section contains an image of Brahma finely carved in wood while the eight outer ones contain carvings of the deities—Isana, Indra, Agni, Yama, Nirriti, Varuna, Vayu and Kubera—all of which exhibit good workmanship. The belt running round the base of the ceiling contains representations of the birth and sports of Krishna and the other *avatars*. The wood carvings at Kuratti belong to the 19th century when the art of wood carving had begun to decline. The carved figures here look less vivid and expressive and are devoid of delicacy of details.

MURALS

The Alleppey District has preserved some of the most exquisite specimens of the Kerala murals. Four mural paintings belonging to the 18th century adorn the walls of the *Srikovil* of the Vishnu temple at Aranmula. Each of them is 63 inches in length and 50 inches in height and has been painted in pairs on either side of the facade of the central shrine. Specimens of mural paintings of the later 18th century may be found on the walls of the Siva and Bhagavathi temples at Panayanarkavu near Mannar. There are mural paintings in the Keethrakovil Subramonia temple, Haripad, the Lekshmi Narasimha temple, Turavur and the Sri Vallabha temple, Tiruvalla. The Orthodox Syrian Church at Cheppad also contains some old mural paintings. These frescoes kept in the Holy of Holies depict the Great Apostles, the scenes from the life of Jesus Christ from His Nativity to Crucifixion and a Malankara Metropolitan. Though these church paintings represent scenes from the Bible and the history of Christianity, still they have a distinct Kerala touch about them. The largest of the mural paintings so far discovered in Kerala may be seen in the Krishnapuram

Palace (Karthikapally Taluk) in this District. The painting which occupies a wall space of 154 sq. feet [14 ft. horizontal and 11 feet vertical] depicts the Puranic story of *Gajendramoksha*. It has been assigned to the period 1725 to 1746 A.D. and is considered to be a priceless treasure of art.

COINS

The history of the coins of the District may be traced back to very early days. According to tradition Rasi, a gold coin said to have been introduced by Parasurama, was the oldest coin current in Kerala. The *Kaliyuga Rayan* or *Kaliyuga Rayan Panam* which bears a vague resemblance to the Rasi coin was next in point of age and according to W. Elliot it was at one time in circulation over the whole of Kerala. Inscriptions of the 9th to the 13 centuries refer to such gold coins as *Pon*, *Acchu Panam*, *Kasu*, *Ezhakasu*, *Azhakasechu*, *Anaiacchu*, *Thiramam*, etc. *Anatharayan panam* and *Anantha Varahan* were two gold coins issued by the rulers of Travancore subsequently. In addition to gold coins, silver and copper coins were also issued by them from time to time.

A large number of non-Kerala coins have also been in circulation in this District as elsewhere in Kerala. The earliest of such coins seem to have been the punch-marked coins which were current even at the time of the Buddha, European coins, particularly Roman, have been discovered from various parts of Kerala including Niranam in this District. The Roman coins found in Kerala may be dated from 30 B.C. to 547 A.D. The Vazhappalli Inscription of Rajasekhara (9th century A.D.) makes specific mention of the *Dinarius*. It records that at a meeting of the townsmen of Vazhappalli *Geramam* and the eighteen *nadus* of Tiruvattuval held under the presidency of king Rajasekhara, it was decided that those who would cause the daily *bali* ceremony in the Siva temple of Tiruvattuval to be discontinued, should pay to the king a hundred *dinarlus*. The coins of the Chola, Pandya and other South Indian powers who had at various times exercised their sway over parts of Kerala were also in circulation in the District. The *Unniati Charitam* composed about 1400 A.D. makes a reference

1 For a study of the punch-marked coins discovered from Kerala, The Early coins from Kerala by Dr. P.L. Gupta may be consulted

2 Travancore Archaeological Series Vol.II pp. 8-14

to the Tulukkakasu which was introduced by the Madurai Sultans during the period 1334-78 and gained currency in the Kerala region also.

INSCRIPTIONS

The epigraphical wealth of the District is substantial. Some of the inscriptions of historic value may be briefly considered here. The main Siva temple at Kaviyur contains two records engraved on its central shrine.¹ Both the records are dated in the Kali Era. One of the inscriptions dated 4051 Kali era records that a private individual named Devan Sendan of Magilanjari made a gift to the temple for offerings, incense etc. While the other record dated the 4052nd year of the same era mentions that two private individuals donated a piece of land for burning lamps and offerings. Both the records are significant in that they mention "the arrangement or compact at Muzhikkulam".²

Another important inscription is the Kandiur inscription of Ravi Kerala Varman.³ It is inscribed on the east base of the *mahamandapa* of the Siva temple at Kandiur. It is written in the Vattezhuthu alphabet and the language is old Malayalam. The inscription records that Rama Kotha Varman, the chief of Odanad, rebuilt the temple of Siva at Kandiur and carried out extensive repairs to it during the years 392 and 393 (1217 and 1218 A. D.) of the Kollam era. The year 392 of the Kollam Era is stated in the documents to have corresponded to the 394th year of the God at Kandiur. This furnishes evidence of the fact that the Kandiur temple was established in 823 A.D. i.e., 394 years before the Kollam year 392. It may be mentioned that the Kandiur temple is one of the oldest temples of Kerala of which there is inscriptional evidence.

The Vishnu temple at Tiruvandur has preserved two undated records of Srivallabhan Kotha who ruled over Venad in the late 10th century. A. D.⁴ One of them records the gift of land made by Srivallabhan Kotha to the deity of Tiruvandur

1 Travancore Archaeological Series, Vol. I, pp. 288-89

2 The reference here is the historic Muzhikkula Kacham which laid down a code of conduct to govern the relations between the landlords and the tenants

3 Travancore Archaeological Series, Vol. I, pp. 289-90

4 Travancore Archaeological Series, Vol. II, pp. 22-25

for food offering and other purposes while the other registers a similar grant to the Tiruvambadi shrine. Both the inscriptions are written in *Vattezhuthu* characters and in the old Malayalam language. Another record in the same temple registers a gift of some land by Ediran Kaviran of Kuzattikkadu for the maintenance of a perpetual lamp in the temple.¹ It is significant that the general supervision of all the three endowments or gifts was entrusted to the local assembly of the "Three Hundred" [Munuttuvar of Nantuzhainad and that in all the three epigraphs the transgressors were threatened with the penalty of the operation of the Muzhikkulam *kacham*. Moreover, there is also a fragmentary record of the Chera ruler Indukotha Varman [944-962 A.D.] inscribed on the *mandapa* of this temple.² It is in *Vattezhuthu* characters and mentions the *munuttuvar* of Nantuzhainad.

Among the most important epigraphical records discovered from the the District, the Tiruvalla copper plates deserve special mention.³ The origin and antiquity of this voluminous document are uncertain but it may not be wrong to assign it to the period some where about 300 Kollam era (1125 A.D.). The alphabet of the record is *Vattezhuthu* of the vertical variety and is of the same type as is found in the grants of Bhaskara Ravi Varman and the inscription at Kandiur. The most remarkable feature of this inscription is that it supplies almost all the letters of the Tamil-alphabet. The document is of interest in other ways also. It mentions several institutions, customs etc. of ancient Kerala which are of sociological interest. It also mentions a large number of persons and places and contains astronomical details necessary for the collection of the date or dates when the entire document or portions thereof were drawn up.

The Narasimha temple at Chathankulangara contains an inscription engraved at its entrance.⁴ It is an undated record but has been assigned to the 14th century on palaeographical grounds. The inscription records that a certain Devan Sankaran of Melkkadu executed repairs to the temple and reconsecrated it. It also gives a list of donations of money made by several individuals for the feeding of Brahmans as well as a list of lands given to the temple.

1 Ibid, Vol. V, pp. 31-33

2 Ibid, Vol. V, pp. 33-34

3 Travancore Archaeological Series, Vol. II, pp. 131-207

4 Ibid, Vol. IV, Part II, p. 161

The Subramonia temple at Haripad contains several lithic records.¹ Most of them relate to matters connected with the cultivation of temple lands by private individuals and the penalty levied from them for defaults of noncultivation or non-payment of rent dues to the temple. One of the inscriptions is, however, of historical interest because it mentions the names of Raman Adichan Varman, the reigning Chief of Odanad and two of his predecessors, Ravi Adichan and Ravi Kerala Varman.

In addition to the temples, some of churches also contain epigraphical records. The Roman Catholic Church at Pallipuram (Shertillai Taluk) contains a few epitaphs in *Vattezhuthu* which have been assigned to the post-Portuguese period.² The orthodox Syrian church at Niranam has a tombstone in its court yard which records the death of one Thomman Chandy in the month of Medom in 792 Kollam Era (1617 A.D.)³

PALACES, FORTS, etc.

There are also some palaces and other monuments of historical interest in the District. The Krishnapuram palace built by Marthanda Varma (1729-58) in the 18th century is a typical example of the Kerala style of architecture. It is one of the protected monuments being maintained by the State Department of Archaeology. The remnants of some irregular fortifications may be seen in the northern part of Kayamkulam town. The old palaces at Karthikapally Taluk which belong to three different families, viz., Chemprol, Anantapuram and Karimpalikoikka also excite the curiosity of the historian. It was in the last mentioned palaces at Marthanda Varma, the ruler of Travancore, is believed to have once taken refuge to elude capture by his enemies. In Mannar is situated the old Koikkal palace which was the summer residence of the Kayamkulam Rajas. A large fort with 24 bastions and each side having a gateway in the centre existed at Mavelikara. There are also old palaces at Pantalam.

Nilamperur in Kuttanad is also a place of some archaeological interest as the bronze statuette of legendary Chera king who is

1 Ibid, Vol. IV, pp 38-43

2. Travancore Archaeological Series, No. VII, p. 141

3. Ibid. p, 144

called Perumal Pallivanavar is kept in a building outside the main Bhagavathi temple of the place. It is only 7½" in height, but has attracted the notice of many a research scholar.

ANCIENT HISTORY

REFERENCES IN CLASSICAL WORKS

The Alleppey District figures in classical literature and tradition. Some of the places mentioned by classical writers like Pliny (1st century A. D.) the author of the *Periplus* (1st century A. D.) and Ptolemy (2nd century A. D.) have been located by scholars in this District. Among the principal centres of Roman trade in Malabar mentioned by these writers are the sea ports of Barace (Bacare) and Nelcynda. The identification of these place names has given rise to much controversy among scholars but there is a view that both Barace and Nelcynda were in the Alleppey District. The former has been identified by several scholars with Purakkad (Porca of the later Portuguese writers) and the latter with Niranam. It may be mentioned that both the towns are said to have been situated not very distant from each other on the banks of the river Baris which scholars are inclined to identify with the Pamba.¹

In the first century when Pliny wrote his account Barace was even a more convenient port than Muziris (Cranganore). He says:

"It (Muziris) is not a desirable place of call, pirates being in the neighbourhood who occupy a place called Nitrias, and besides it is not well supplied with wares for traffic. Ships besides anchor at a great distance from the shore, and the cargoes have to be landed and shipped by employing boats. At the time I was writing this Cleobtheras was the sovereign of that country. Another more convenient harbour of the nation is Neacyndon which is called Decare. There Pandion used to

1 I. C. Chacko is one of the prominent scholars who identify Barace with Purakkad and Nelcynda with Niranam. His article on "Parasurama tradition" in the Journal of the Rama Varma Research Institute Bulletin, Vol. XII, PP. 1-11 may be referred to in this connection. Dr. P. J. Thomas also subscribes to Chacko's view. Attention is invited to the article on Roman Trade Centres in Malabar by Dr. P. J. Thomas in Kerala Society Papers, Vol. II Series X (pp. 259-269). In A History of South India (P.139) Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri identifies Barace with Purakkad (Porakad)

reign, dwelling at a great distance from the mart, in a town in the interior of the country called Modura. The district from which pepper is carried down to Becare in canoes is called Cottonara. None of these names of nations, ports and cities are to be found in any of the former writers— from which it appears that the names (stations) of the places are changed.’¹

The author of the *Periplus* does not fully endorse the view of Pliny in regard to the importance of Barace. He calls Muziris the principal port of the land and Barace a village where ships laden with pepper from Nelcynda frequently called. The observations of the author of the *Periplus* are given below:—

“Muziris, which pertains to the same realm, is a city at the height of prosperity, frequented as it is by ships (from Ariake and Greek ships from Egypt). It lies near a river at a distance from Tyndis of 500 stadia, whether this is measured from river to river or by the length of the sea voyage, and it is 20 stadia distant from the mouth of its own river. The distance of Nelcynda from Muziris is also nearly 500 stadia, whether measured from river to river or by the sea voyage, but it belongs to a different kingdom, that of Pandion. It likewise is situated near a river and at about a distance from the sea of 120 stadia.

At the very mouth of this river lies another village, Bacare to which the ships despatched from Nelcynda come down empty and ride at anchor off shore while taking in cargo: for the river, it may be noted, has sunken reefs and shallows which make its navigation difficult. The sign by which those who come hither by sea know they are nearing land is their meeting with snakes, which are here of a black colour, not so long as those already mentioned, like serpents about the head, and with eyes the colour of blood.

The ships which frequent these ports are of a large size, on account of the great amount and bulkiness of the pepper and betel of which their lading consists. The imports here are principally great quantities of spices; (topaz ?) gold stone, chrysolite, a small assortment of plain cloth, flowered robes; Stibium, a pigment for the eyes; coral, white glass, copper or

1 Foreign Notices of South India, K. A. Nilakanta Sastri P.53

brass, tin, lead, wine, but not much, but about as much as at Barygaza; sandarach, arsenic (orpiment), yellow sulphuret of arsenic; and corn, only for the use of the ship company, as the merchants do not sell it.

The following commodities are brought to it for export: Pepper in great quantity, produced in only one of these marts, also called the pepper of Cottonara, pearls in great quantity and of superior quality, ivory, fine silks, spikenard from the Ganges, betel, all brought from countries further east, transparent or precious stones of all sorts, diamonds, jacinths-tortoise-shell from the Golden Island, and another sort which lie off the coast of Limyrike. The proper season to set sail from Egypt for this part of India is about the month of July that is, Epihi"¹

According to the *Periplus* Nelcynda was 500 stadia from Muziris and 120 stadia from Barace. Scholars who identify Barace with Purakkad and Nelcynda with Niranam also identify Cottonara mentioned by Pliny and the *Periplus* with Kuttanad where pepper of the finest quality grew in abundance. It may be mentioned that Kuttanad was one of the ancient divisions of Kerala and the name survives even today in the Taluk of the same name. It seems that the entire region lying on the banks of the Pamba river (the modern Taluks of Chengannur, Tiruvalla, Ambalapuzha and Kuttanad) supplied all the pepper required for export from Barace to foreign countries. By Ptolemy's time (second century) Barace and Nelcynda seem to have ceased to be important ports. In Ptolemy's map Barace is marked in the territory of Cheraputra and Nelcynda in the Ay Kingdom. Muziris had by this time completely overshadowed the other sea ports of Kerala.

ST. THOMAS TRADITION

The Alleppey District looms large in the familiar St. Thomas tradition current in Kerala. According to this tradition St. Thomas, the Apostle, landed at Maliankara, a place adjoining Muziris in 52 A. D., converted several Brahmins and others and founded seven Churches on the Malabar coast. Two of the seven churches founded by St. Thomas have been located at Pallipuram (Kokamangalam) and Niranam in this District. Thus it seems that

¹ Classical Accounts of India Dr. R. C. Majumdar, pp. 305-6

Christianity had found its way into the Alleppey District even in the first century of the Christian era.

SANGAM AGE

In the Sangam age which comprised the first five centuries of the Christian era a portion of the Alleppey District formed part of Kuttanad, one of the four divisions of ancient Kerala. To the north of Kuttanad lay Kudanad and to its south Venad. The term "Kuttanad" literally means "the land of lakes" and the north-eastern part of the Alleppey District is known by that name even today. The early Cheras had their original home in Kuttanad and according to the Sangam works they had their headquarters at Kuzhumoor in this area. Though it has not been possible to identify this place conclusively there is a view that Kuzhumoor was Kumili in the present Kottayam District. It was after their home in Kuttanad that the early Cheras came to be known as the Kuttuvans. While the Chera or Kuttuvans were having their sway over the north-eastern portions of the District, the south-eastern portions up to Tiruvalla formed part of the Ay kingdom which had its headquarters in South Travancore.¹ It is significant that Ptolemy refers to the region from the rivers Baris (Pamba) to Cape Comorin as the Aioi (Ay) where the chieftains of the Ay clan ruled.

BUDDHISM

An important aspect of the early history of the District is the widespread prevalence of Buddhism. Reference has already been made to the Buddhist images discovered at such places as Bharanikavu, Mavelikara and Karumadi. The Buddhist faith was firmly established in the very centre of the District in a place called Sri Mulavasam which is now under the sea. The famous temple of the Buddha at Sri Mulavasam was in a flourishing condition during the reign of the Ay king Vikramaditya Varaguna (885-925 A.D.).² The paliyam plates of this ruler testify to the fact that he had granted extensive landed properties to the temple of Sri Mulavasam. There are also references to Sri Mulavasam in the Sanskrit work *Mushaka Vamsa*. It is stated in this work that during the reign of the Mushaka king, Valabha, the temple of Sri Mulavasam was on the verge of ruin on account of the inroads of the sea. Valabha is said

1 Trivandrum District Gazetteer, P. 103

2 Trivandrum District Gazetteer, pp. 110-111

to have marched to the south to join the army of the ruler of Kerala which was being attacked by the Cholas and on his way back he is said to have visited the Buddha temple at Sri Mulavasam. There have been differences of opinion among scholars in regard to the identification of Sri Mulavasam. Some have located it in north Kerala on the evidence of the *Mushaka Vamsa*.¹ Historically it seems to be more correct to locate Sri Mulavasam somewhere in the coastal region between Trikunnappuzha and Karumadi which was the cradle of the Buddhist faith in ancient days as is testified to by the large number of Buddha images discovered from the area.² That Sri Mulavasam was a celebrated centre of Buddhist pilgrimage in ancient times is proved also by the discovery of an image of Lokeswara by M. Foucher in Gandhara containing the following short inscription on it:— "*Dakshinapathe Moolavasa Lokanatha*". T. A. Gopinatha Rao, formerly Superintendent of Archaeology, Travancore State, comments on the contents of this inscription as follows:—

"The use of the term *Dakshina-patha* removes all doubt about the situation of Sri Moolavasam. If a duplicate of the image of the Lokeswara was set up for worship even in such a distant country as Gandhara, there is not the least doubt about the great sanctity with which the original was held by the Buddhas all over the world. The presence of such an all important temple of Buddha must necessarily have induced people to erect more temples to this deity in all the adjacent parts, and this might account for a number of images all of which are found practically in one place, that is, near Sri Mulavasam."³

It has also been pointed out that Sri Mulavasam might have perished in or about the first quarter of the 10th century almost at the same time that another famous temple of the Buddha viz., Chudamani Varma Vihara came into existence on the opposite coast at Nagapattinam in almost the same altitude as Sri Mulavasam.

1 See *Buddhism in Kerala* by P. C. Alexander p. 84
and *Keralavum Buddhamatayam* by S. Sanku Ayyar, p. 58.

2 Attention is invited to *Chila Kerala Chattru Prasnaṅgal* by Elamkulam P.N. Kunjan pillai. P. 105

3. *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. 11, Part 11. p. 117

AGE OF THE SECOND CHERA EMPIRE (800-1102 A. D.)

During the period from the 9th to the 12th centuries A. D. the Alleppey District formed part of the Second Chera empire (800-1102 A. D.) which extended its sway over the whole of Kerala with its capital at Mahodayapuram. The Chera empire was divided for administrative purposes into a number of *Nadus* each of which was ruled over by a feudatory governor appointed by the Emperor. The area comprising the present Alleppey District formed mainly parts of the *Nadus* of Odanad and Nantuzhainad each of which had its feudatory ruler or governor as well as its popular assembly called *Mummulluwar*. The governor who was appointed by the Emperor carried on the administration in accordance with the wishes of the popular assembly.

ODANAD

The principality of Odanad comprised in the beginning the present Karthikapally and Mavelikkara Taluks and had its capital at Kandiur Mattam (Mavelikkara) at least till the 14th century when it was shifted to Eruva in the outskirts of Kayamkulam. We have no records to reconstruct a connected history of Odanad but there are inscriptions and literary works which give us some information about a few of the rulers of this kingdom. The Kandiur inscription of the Venad king Ravi Kerala Varma dated 393 Kollam Era (1218 A. D.) refers to one Rama Kotha Varma, chief of Odanad as having renovated the Siva temple of Kandiur while the Haripad temple inscription refers to the ruling chief of Odanad, Raman Adicha Varman and his predecessors Ravi Adichan and Ravi Kerala Varman. The rulers of Odanad figures as one of the signatories in the Vira Ragava copper plate (1225 A. D.)¹. An inscription at Tiruchchendur in Tirunelveli District dated in the fourth year of a Pandyan king Maravarman Tribhuvanaachakravartin Kulasekharadeva mentions the donation of two villages for the maintenance of a *matha* called *Arulaladasa matha* founded by a certain Odanattadikal.² As the date of this Pandya ruler is itself not clear it has not been possible to establish the identity or age of the Odanad ruler mentioned in the record. The *Unnunilisanthesam* composed during the period 1350-1365 mentions a ruler of Odanad by name Iravi Varma. It is

1 See Trichur District, *Gazetteer* pp. 134-36

2 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol VI, P. 38

clear from the evidence furnished by this poem that Kandiur Mattam continued to be the capital of the Olanad kings during this Period also. There were two palaces for the Olanad kings at Kandiur. One was the Nariyangamannur palace situated at Mattam about half a mile to the west of the Kandiur temple and the other at Kirthinuram to the northeast of the temple. The *Unniaticharitam* composed by Damodara about the year 1400 A.D. during the reign of Iravi Kerala Varma, the ruler of Olanad also throws some light on the affairs of the kingdom. Unniati, the heroine of the *Unniaticharitam*, was the daughter of Kerala Varman. The *Sivavilasam*, yet another literary work composed by Damodara during the same period, also contains a beautiful description of Kerala Varman himself and his capital at Kandiur Mattam. The theme of the poem is the choice (*Swayamvaranam*) of Yuvaraja Rama Varman of Perumpadappu Swarupam as her husband by Unniati, the daughter of Kerala Varma. It was only sometimes after the 4th century that Olanad shifted its capital to Kayamkulam.

NANTUZHAINAD

The inscriptions of the Chera emperors throw some light on the conditions in Nantuzhainad also. The kingdom comprised the Tiruvalla-Chengannur region of this District as well as the Changanacherry area of the neighbouring Kottayam District. The Mamballi Plate dated Kollam era 149 (974 A.D.) records that the temple of Ayirur and its lands were placed at the disposal of the temple of Tiruchengannur by a private party in the assembly of the great men of Tiruchengannur, king Sri Vallabhan Kotha of Venad, (the southern-most division of the Chera Empire), being also present in it¹. From the inscriptions of this ruler discovered from the Vishnu temple at Tiruvanvandur and Trikkodithanam it is inferred by some scholars that this Venad ruler extended his sway even as far north as Changanacherry Taluk. One of the Tiruvanvandur inscriptions records the grant of certain lands by Sri Vallabhan Kotha to the God at Tiruvanvandur². The Trikkodithanam inscription No. 1 dated the 14th regnal year (976 A.D.) of the reign of Bhaskara Ravi Varman records that Govardhana Marthanda, the ruler of Venad, granted certain taxes to the temple of Trikkodithanam.³ There is also inscriptional evidence

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series* Vol IV, pp. 1-16

2 *Ibid* Vol.

3 *Ibid* Vol II, P. 33

of the fact that in the 14th year of the reign of Bhaskara Ravi Varman the *Koyihiladhikrihal* appointed Govardhana Marthanda, the ruler of Venad, to rule over Nantuzhainad also¹. Thus it is clear that Nantuzhainad was one of the subordinate divisions of the Second Chera Empire, its chieftains or Viceroy's having been appointed by the Chera Emperor himself. The Nantuzhainad kingdom merged in course of time in the kingdom of Odanad and later in Tekkumkur. It may be stated on the evidence of the *Unnunilisandesam* that the Tekkumkur kingdom had not extended to the Changanacherry-Tiruvalla region even by the middle of the 14th century and that areas to the south of Kaviyur came to be included in it only sometime thereafter.²

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY

During the age of the Second Chera Empire (800-1102 A. D.) and the period immediately following its fall the places under the modern Alleppey District made significant contributions to the religious and cultural progress of Kerala. An important feature of Hindu religious activity during the period was the rise of the temple to a place of prominence in the social and cultural life of the people. A large number of Siva and Vishnu shrines sprang up in all parts of Kerala. One of the earliest temples of Alleppey District and of Kerala about which information is available is the Siva temple at Kandiyur established in 823 A.D. during the reign of Rajasekhara Varman (842-871 A. D., the devout Saiva ruler. Some of the most famous Vaishnava Shrines of South India celebrated in the songs of the Vaishnava Alvars like Nammalwar and Tirumangai Alvar came to be established in this District during the age. The famous Vishnu shrines of Tiruvananthapuram, Tiruvalla, Tiruvaranmala, Tiruchittat and Tirupuliyur deserve mention in this connection, Saint Sathakopa, otherwise known as Nammalwar. 9th century A. D., has devoted

1 Ibid, Vol. V, PP. 178-179.

2 It may be mentioned in this connection that Tekkumkur was the southern portion of Vempolinad (Bimbali desa in Sanskrit) which comprised the major portion of central and North Travancore in ancient days. The northern portion of the kingdom was known as Vadakkumkur. Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur seem to have become independent kingdoms before the 12th century A.D. The former had its capital at Vennimala and the latter at Kaduthuruthi. The rulers of both Vadakkumkur and Tekkumkur are indiscriminately referred to in literary works as Bimbali-sas. The Vembanad lake lying between Alleppey and Cochin derives its name from Vembolinadu.

a considerable portion of his hymns to the praise of the deities of these famous shrines. Tiruvandur which is known by the name *Tiruvannandur* and *Tiruvannandur* in inscriptions is one of the thirteen holy places (*Divyadesams*) of Malainadu sung in the hymns of Nammalwar. It is also referred to in the *Natayiraprabandham* as well as in the *Maranalankaram* and *Ashtaprabandham*. The Vishnu temple at Tiruvalla is also another of the thirteen *Divyadesams* of Malainadu praised by Nammalwar and Tirumangai Alwar. The temple is celebrated in the works of the Alvars as *Tiruvallaval*. It may be noted that the temple of Tiruvalla, like that of Tiruvandur, was frequently visited by Nammalwar as well as by Tirumangai Alwar after plodding their weary way through the inhospitable jungles and forests of South Kerala. Nammalwar's *Tiruvaimozhi* song on Tiruvalla consists of eleven stanzas which give specific details about the place. It refers particularly to the flourishing local community of thousand Brahmin families, the sugarcane and paddy fields of the place as well as the Vedic chanting and sacrificial smoke emanating from the temple and its suburbs. The other Vaishnava shrines of Tiruchittat, Tirupuliyur and Tiruvaranmala are also equally noted Vaishnava shrines praised in the songs of the Alvars.

VIRALMINDA NAYANAR

In spite of the predominance of the Vaishnava cult the District produced in the 9th century one of the greatest Saiva Saints of South India, viz., Viralminda Nayanar. Viralminda Nayanar is included among the 63 holy saints of Saivism. A non-Brahmin native of Chengannur he was a contemporary of Cheraman Perumal Nayanar and Sundaramurthi Nayanar.¹ Pandit M. Raghava Ayyangar gives the following information about the life and work of Viralminda Nayanar:

"The story about him is that he used to worship first and foremost the devotees of Siva considering them as even more worthy of his regard than God himself. During his stay in Tiruvarur, he saw Sundaramurthi Nayanar going into the temple straight to the inner sanctum, wilfully ignoring the assembly of the Lord's devotees in the *mantapa* in front. He was stirred to righteous indignation at this neglect, and cried aloud in ringing tones that the guilty person was a *bhrashta*

1 The *Periyapuranam* tells us that Viralminda Nayanar was a vellala of Kodimada, Chengannur.

or an outcaste, and that even the God who favoured the sinner was an outcaste. Humbled at this outburst, the devotees of God; he sang the *Thiruttondattokai* in praise of the *Bhaktas* and won the angry Kerala saint's appreciation. Lord Siva pleased at the achievement of Viralminda, made him the chief of his devotees." ¹

Along with the other Saiva saints of repute Viralminda Nayanar made a significant contribution to the progress of the Saiva cult in South India.

TEMPLE AS THE CENTRE OF CULTURE

Side by side with the progress of the Hindu religion there was also the progress of temple architecture, arts and Vedic learning in ancient Kerala. Generous donations were made both by the rulers and the rich people for the construction and upkeep of temples and shrines. Temple building, in fact, received a very great impetus during this period. As already stated, the most important of the ancient temples of this District seem to have had their origin in the 9th century A. D. The vast majority of the inscriptions discovered from temples such as those of Tiruvalla, Tiruvandur etc., record endowments of gifts of lands and other offerings. It was customary in those days to donate extensive landed properties, particularly paddy fields, to the temples with the stipulation that the paddy obtained from there was to be used for the performance of *archanas* or offering of food, ghce, etc., in the temples. There are also instances of endowments being made to temples for the feeding of the students of the Vedas. It is significant that endowments were made not only by the chiefs of the locality concerned but also by the chiefs of neighbouring principalities. In fact, the patronage of temples in ancient Kerala was undertaken by rulers in disregard of all parochial and territorial considerations.

The ancient Kerala temple was also a centre of learning and arts. There was a *salai* or Vedic college attached to the most important temples. One of the premier *salais* of this District was the Tiruvalla *salai* which was attached to the Vishnu temple of Tiruvalla. It provided instruction for hundreds of Brahmin youths. The Tiruvalla Copper Plates mention that 350 measures of rice

1 Some Aspects of Kerala and Tamiz Literature, Part I, pp. 31-32.

were used exclusively for the feeding of Vedic students (*chatras*) at noon in the Tiruvalla *salai*. The students were treated with great regard and respect. The Tiruvalla Copper Plates lay down that "as soon as offerings were made to the deity; the same should be given to the *chatras*: the *chatras* should be supplied with one and a half coconuts, 9 *Kalanjus* of tamarind and one *ulakku* of salt." ¹ It was because the students were provided only with cooked rice offered to the deity that special arrangements were made to supply them with the condiments mentioned above. An *Aturasala* (hospital) was also maintained for the treatment and medical care of the students and priests attached to the temple.

Apart from being a place of learning the temple also served as a centre for the patronage of arts. The *Devadasi* system was prevalent during this period. The Tiruvalla Copper Plates which may be assigned to the 12th century A. D. mention that the four *Devadasis* or dancing girls who were attached to the temple were to be given 12 measures of rice. One of the endowments made to the Tiruvalla temple by Kandan Kumaran, the ruler of Kizhumalainadu, provided for five kinds of musical instruments (*Panchamahasabda*) being played everyday in the temple for the *Sribalis* performed in the morning, noon and evening. The *Panohamahasabda* or five great sounds are those of the *Chenda* (a kind of drum), *Timila* (another kind), *Chenda* (another kind), *Kaithalam* (cymbals) and *Kahalam* (trumpet). It is also interesting to note that temples were provided with theatre halls known in the inscriptions under the name of *Kuthamblam* or *Attathu-mandapam*. Dramatic performances took place in these halls on festival occasions. The dramas *Tapatismvarana* and *Subhadradhananjaya* by the royal writer Kulasekhara seem to have been specially composed for being enacted during such festivals. Onam also seems to have been an important celebration in these days as is evidenced by the schedule of expenditure prescribed by the Tiruvalla Copper Plates for the celebration of the festival.² The temple also served in olden days as boarding house for travellers and provision was made not only by kings but also by private philanthropists for feeding some specified number of

1 *Travancore Archaeological Series*, Vol. II, p. 136

2 *Travancore Archaeological Series* Vol. II, pp. 149-52

Brahmins before and after the offerings were made to the God. This is also clear from the Tiruvalla Copper plates which refer to the arrangements made in the temple of Tiruvalla for feeding daily over 25 Brahmin Sri Vaishnavas.

It may also be mentioned in this connection that elaborate arrangements had been made in those days for the proper administration of the temples and the performance of rituals. A committee called *sabha* looked after the affairs of each temple. It was constituted for a specific period and its members being mainly Brahmins were respectfully called *Aryar* or *Sabha Aryar*. The day-to-day management of the temple was, however, attended to by the *potuwal* or Secretary appointed by the committee. The *sabhas* which managed the temple were controlled by the *Kuttams* or local assemblies. In the inscriptions at Tiruvannandur which record endowments to the temple it is clearly specified that the expenditure to be incurred in connection with the performance of rituals or ceremonies should be supervised by the *Munuttuvar* or "Three Hundred" of Nantuzhainad. The *Desavazhis* and *Naduvazhis* had also some rights over temples.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LITERATURE

The general cultural progress of the age was characterised by literary output of a very high order. One of the earliest literary figures associated with the Alleppey District is Saktibhadra, the author of the celebrated Sanskrit drama *Acharyachudamani* (9th century A. D.). According to tradition Saktibhadra was a Brahmin scholar of Chengannur Gramam and his original name was Sankara. He is said to have met Adi Sankara, the famous Advaita philosopher, during the latter's visit to Chengannur. The story goes that Saktibhadra read out his drama *Acharyachudamani* to the Acharya during his visit and that the latter did not make any comments on it as he was observing a day of silent meditation. The author is said to have been so disappointed by the indifferent reception accorded to his work by the Acharya that he promptly consigned it to flames. Sankara, on his return to Chengannur after his tour of Kerala, so goes the story, enquired of Saktibhadra about his drama and having been informed by the latter of its destruction dictated the whole of its contents to the author from his own memory. Whatever be the truth behind this legend, it is an undoubted fact that the *Acharyachudamani* is a literary work

of great excellence. A Sanskrit drama in seven acts, there are very few compositions of this kind in Sanskrit which may be considered fit for performance on the stage. Saktibhadra also seems to have been a devotee of Sri Rama and as such he was a typical product of the Bhakti cult of the day.

The most outstanding names in Malayalam literature during the medieval period are those of the Niranam poets. They have been assigned to the 15th century. Rama Panikkar, the most celebrated of these poets, composed such masterpieces as *Ramayanam*, *Brahmandapuranam*, *Sisarathrimahatmyam*, *Bhagavatham*, *Gurugita* and *Padmapuranam*. Though mostly translations from Sanskrit, the works of Rama Panikkar are noted for their originality of treatment and richness of ideas. Rama Panikkar is known to the world of letters as Kannassan and his birth place called Kannassaparambu is pointed out even today near the Trikapaleswara temple at Niranam. There is difference of opinion on the question whether Madhava, the author of the Malayalam translation of the *Bhagavat Gita* and Sankara, the author of the *Bharatamala* belonged to the same family as Kannassan. The resemblances in language, style and metre have led writers on the history of Malayalam literature to include them also among the Niranam poets. To the Niranam poets goes the honour of having revised the tradition of religious poetry which was relegated to the background in the earlier period by the secular literature of the *Chamfus* and *Sandesa Kavyas*.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT IN THE 16th CENTURY

We may resume our narrative of the political history of the District. The arrival of Vasco Da Gama at Calicut in 1498 opened a new epoch in the history of Kerala. The Alleppey District with its extensive sea coast was before long to become the cockpit of the rivalries of European powers and their native allies. Early in the 16th century small principalities held sway over various parts of the Alleppey District. The kingdom of Tekkumkur which had its capital at Vennimila (Changanacherry Taluk) had by this time extended its influence to the Tiruvalla-Chengannur area of the District at the expense of the kingdom of Odanad. The latter principality had consequently shrunk in size, its authority having been restricted to parts of the present Mavelikara and Karthikapally Taluks. As the Odanad Raja seems to have shifted his

headquarters from Kandiur to Kayamkulam the kingdom had been referred to hereafter as Kayamkulam and its ruler as the Kayamkulam Raja. The area comprising the present Ambalapuzha Taluk and portions of Kuttanad Taluk also emerged during this period as a separate principality under a Brahmin ruler called the Chempakasseri Raja. The kingdom is known to history alternately as Purakkad, Ambalapuzha or Chempakasseri. The Shertallai Taluk of the present day was known as Karappuram and it comprised of two small principalities, viz., Muthedath and Iledath¹. The Kaimals who were the chieftains of these kingdoms were cousins and they were also closely related to the Raja of Cochin. Many Annual Letters of the Jesuit Missionaries of this period give the approximate distance of Muthedath and Purakkad from Cochin as 5 and 10 leagues respectively, a Portuguese league being equivalent to 5 English miles. It may be mentioned in this connection that the rulers of Cochin, otherwise called Perumpadappu Swarupam had the most cordial relations not only with the Karappuram Kaimals but also with the rulers of Tekkumkur, Kayamkulam and Chempakasseri as well. They even exercised certain rights over the Vishnu temple of Tiruvalla.

BEGINNINGS OF PORTUGUESE CONTACT

The Alleppey District came into contact with the Portuguese during the second expedition of Vasco Da Gama to Kerala in 1502. While Vasco Da Gama was at Cochin he received a message from the Queen of Quilon requesting him to send two of his largest ships to her port for the purchase of pepper on favourable terms. The ships sent by Da Gama touched Kayamkulam during their visit to Quilon.

‘Two ships were sent to Quilon and they were taken to a river called *Callecoulam* (Kayamkulam) which was five leagues

1 Muthedath, is referred to in Portuguese records as ‘Muterte.’ It is stated that the term Arathunkal, the famous Christian pilgrim centre, in Shertallai Taluk is a derivation from the word Muthedathunkal, meaning at Muthedath. Muthedathunkal is believed to have become Edathunkal afterwards and then Arathunkal or Arthunkal. See the Mission work of the Jesuits in Muthedath and Purakkad in the 16th and 17th centuries. Fr George Schurhammer, p. 1.

south from the port (Cochin), were filled up in ten days and returned to Cochin loaded with pepper and spices. Besides, the Queen sent a present to Vasco Da Gama (Captain Major) of several silk stuffs of Various colours which were made in the country, and very fine white stuffs of very great worth.¹

The District was visited by some of the Portuguese travellers like Ludovica di Varthema and Duarte Barbosa. Varthema who visited Malabar in 1505 visited both Purakkad and Kayamkulam. He travelled from Calicut by river "the most beautiful he has ever seen" and arrived at Cocolon (Kayamkulam) about 50 leagues distant from Calicut.

VARTHEMA SAYS:-

"The king of this city is a pagan, and extremely powerful, and he has 20,000 horsemen, and many archers, and is constantly, at war with other kings. This country has a good port near to the sea-coast. No grain grows here, but fruits, as at Calicut, and pepper in great quantities. The colour of the people, their dress, manner of living, and customs, are the same as at Calicut. At that time, the king of this city was the friend of the king of Portugal, but being at war with others it did not appear to us well to remain here. Therefore, we took our way by sea, aforesaid, and went to a city which is called Chayl, belonging to the same king, opposite from Colon fifty miles."²

Barbosa who visited Kerala about 1514 refers to Purakkad and also gives an account of Kayamkulam similar to that given by Varthema. He observes:-

"Beyond this kingdom of Cochin towards the south, the kingdom of Coulam is entered; between these kingdoms there is a place which is called Porca, it belongs to a lord. Having passed this place the kingdom of Coulam commences, and the first town is called Cayncolan in which dwell many Gentiles, Moors, and Indian Christians of the doctrine of St. Thomas. And many of these Christians live inland amongst the Gentiles. There is much pepper in this place of which there is much exportation."³

1 Travancore State Manual, Vol-I, V.Nagam Aiya, p. 283

2 Travancore State Manual, Vol. I, V. Nagam Aiya, p. 290

3 Ibid Vol I, V Nagam Aiya, p. 291

Barbosa also refers to the lord of Purakkad as having a small territory under him. He noted the existence of a large fishing community in the kingdom. He observes that:

"many fishermen reside who do nothing and have no other occupation than that of fishing during the winter and of plundering the sea during the summer."¹

He says further that "the booty they divide with the lord of the country who countermands them."

ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF CHEMPAKASSERI

It may be relevant in this context to trace the origin and early history of the kingdom of Purakkad or Chempakasseri which was to play a leading role in the politics of Kerala during the Portuguese period. The Chempakasseri Raja was a Brahmin who had his ancestral home at Kudamalur in Kottayam District.¹ One of the traditions regarding the origin of the kingdom has been narrated as follows by V. Nagam Aiyar in his *Travancore State Manual*.

"An interesting local tradition exists as to the origin of the Chempakasseri Rajas. The tract of the country known as Kuttanad was in the rule of a powerful oligarchy of Nambudiri Brahmins, their head-quarters being Ambalapuzha, where the ancient temple dedicated to Sri Krishna stands. This temple owned most of the lands there. The managing trustees of the temple property formed the oligarchy who ruled the State. The business of State used to be transacted in the Council-hall still known as *mantrasala* of the Ambalapuzha temple, where the proud Brahmins met every day for business as well as for recreation. One day while engaged in chess after business was over and rioting and revelling and chewing to their hearts' content, a ship-wrecked crew of a few hundred Europeans, probably Portuguese, arrived with their arms, related their adventures by the sea and begged of the chess-playing Brahmins to give them food and shelter. The thoughtless Nambudiris made with the fatal game of dice and revelry told the hungry crew in a vein of cruel jest pointing to

¹ There is also a view that the original home of the Chempakasseri Rajas was situated near the Kumaranellur temple in Kottayam Taluk and that it was from here that they shifted to Kudamalur.

a pious old man coming from his ablutions and noon-day prayers to worship at the temple that they themselves were poor and humble and could not help the unfortunates, and "here comes the greatest man of the village who will feed and clothe you, if you seek his help." The distressed crew took it in right earnest and applied to the old man, explaining their miserable condition by signs and symbols and seeking immediate succor at his hands. That pious old Brahmin, be it remembered, was the poorest man in the village and lived on one meal a day, spending himself wholly in prayers and religious exercises and keeping himself aloof from his noisy but opulent neighbours. When he saw the supplications of these Europeans distressed by thirst and hunger and saw also the jesting reference made to him by the proud dice-players at the *mantrasala* he comprehended the situation in an instant, discovered that there was no escape for him and took it as a sign from the God Krishna, and thereupon handed over to the hungry crew one of his very few golden rings which formed the sum total of his earthly possessions. Even to this day Nambudiris of all grades and ranks carry in their fingers a number of gold rings, each of 1½ sterling value, a point of special vanity with that class of people. The poor Nambudiri directed them by signs to go to the bazaar and sell that ring and buy their food and drink, which being done, they came back to his house and mounted guard there to do his bidding. Next day he gave another gold ring and that sufficed for their second day's meal. The armed aliens had now become his faithful retinue. So runs the story. The Nambudiri had now reached the depth of his pocket and was afraid he had not the wherewithal to maintain his new regiment for the third day. Necessity is the mother of invention and he hit upon a happy idea. His genius turned the situation to his advantage. He sent the armed retinue with a servant boy of his own to one of the oligarchists' houses with orders to remove the inmates without offering any violence or insult to them and bring away the whole of his goods to his own quarters. Day after day all the richest houses in the village were similarly dealt with and the spoils brought to his house maintained him and his army in great affluence. He next sent men to collect the temple dues. He took charge of the Devaswam itself and managed it on behalf of the God. He appointed officers and

collected taxes. By one stroke of fortune he became king. Thus came into existence the line of the Chempakachery Rajas at Ambalapuzha.¹

The above version given by Nagam Aiya has no historical basis. There are no European or native records to support the story of the Portuguese soldiers having helped any local Brahmin chief to achieve royal status. However, there is a modified version of Nagam Aiyas story according to which some local Nair mercenaries are alleged to have helped a Namboothiri chief of Kumaranellur to acquire territories in the neighbourhood and eventually establish his suzerainty over the present Ambalapuzha region. The details of this story may also be given here. A body of about 500 Nairs who had been defeated in the war between the Zamorin and the Cochin Raja came down to Tekkumkur for asylum. They sought the help of some of the rich Namboothiris of Kumaranellur in earning their means of livelihood. The latter directed them to the young Namboothiri of Pulikkal Chempakasseril Ilam, one of the poorest in the locality. This was meant as a cruel joke on the young Namboothiri, but the latter on being approached for help by the mercenaries rose to the occasion and presented them with his gold ring. The soldiers sold the ring and maintained themselves for a few days with the income derived therefrom. They were anxious to show their gratitude to the young Namboothiri benefactor. The Namboothiri in the meantime, approached the Tekkumkur Raja and secured a deed granting him permission to acquire for himself such territories in the neighbourhood as he could clear within a day with his sword (*udaval*).³ The tract from Kumaranellur to Kudamalur in the present Kottayam Taluk thus came under the sway of the Chempakasseril Namboothiri. The mercenaries who were at his beck and call also plundered the rich houses in the locality and enriched the coffers of their benefactor. In due course, they conquered the Ambalapuzha region and made the Chempakasseril Namboothiri its

1 Travancore State Manual, Vol. I, V. Nagam Aiya pp. 345-46

2 The story has been narrated by Kottarathil Sankunni in his Aithiyamala Vol. I, pp. 41-47

3 It is said that Kudamalur is the corruption of Udavalur i.e. the area conquered with the Udaival or sword. This is the local tradition.

master. The expanded kingdom came to be known as Chempakasseri.¹ Though the Raja shifted his residence to Ambalapuzha, the female members continued to stay at Kudamalur.

The above story too, like the one narrated by Nagam Aiya, has no historical basis. However, it serves to throw light on the peculiar political and social conditions prevailing in that age. It was an age when feudalism was at its worst. The number of *chavers*, mostly professional mercenaries, freely moved about the countryside offering their services to those chieftains who paid them best. The Namboothiri chief of Chempakasseri who carved out a separate principality seems to have been helped by such a body of armed mercenaries.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND PURAKKAD

In the early period the relations between the Portuguese and the Raja of Purakkad were cordial. In the campaigns of the Portuguese against Ponnani, the naval station of the Zamorin of Calicut in 1524, the Arayan of Purakkad, the naval commander of the Raja of Chempakasseri actively helped the Portuguese. John Hendrique De Menezes, the Portuguese Viceroy, who doubted the loyalty of the Arayan and suspected him of half-heartedness ordered his men to shoot him. The Arayan was seriously wounded. The Raja of Purakkad (Chempakasseri) was infuriated by this treacherous conduct of the Portuguese and declared war. After much indecisive fighting on the sea the Raja was defeated in 1525 and Purakkad itself was attacked.

In 1528 the Purakkad Raja openly sided with the Zamorin in the fight against the Portuguese. The Portuguese swore vengeance

1 According to another view the kingdom derived its name from a kind of vessel locally called 'Chempaka' which frequented the waters of the Alleppey coast. The kingdom came to be known as Ambalappuzha only after the construction of the present Krishna temple (Ambalam) at Ambalapuzha in the 16th century by Puradam Tirunal Devanarayana (K E 741-98) one of the illustrious rulers of the Chempakasseri kingdom. Reference may also be made in this connection to the local tradition according to which Purakkad was under the sway of a Muslim chieftain, called 'Eral' who had a fine fleet under his control. He is said to have alienated the Portuguese by rendering help to the Kunjali Marakkars. The Portuguese are therefore said to have put an end to the Muslim chief and brought Purakkad under the Chempakasseri Raja who was their ally.

on the chief. While the Raja was absent from Purakkad, a Portuguese army of 1000 men under Lopo Vaz raided the city. Purakkad was ably defended by the Muslims and the Nairs. The defenders however, suffered heavy casualties and those who survived took to flight. The Portuguese thereupon entered the city and plundered it. The wife and sister of the Raja and other important persons of the court were taken prisoners. The Portuguese also obtained a huge booty consisting of gold, silver, jewels, silk and other kods, a number of cannon and 13 large vessels. All inhabitants found in the city were massacred and the town was completely burnt. It has been recorded that the Portuguese who fought on that day obtained 800 gold pagodas per head as share of their booty and that the share of their leader Lopo Vaz alone came up to almost 100,000 pagodas. Before leaving the Purakkad coast the Portuguese also cut down all the coconut trees in the area. When the Raja returned to the Place the Portuguese had already left with their rich booty. This is said to have taken place on October 15, 1528. It was with the wealth that they obtained from the sack of Purakkad that the Portuguese paid the arrears of salary due to Pero Mascarenhas for three years at the rate of 10,000 mohur per annum. The plight of the Purakkad Raja was so pitiable that he pleaded with the Portuguese Governor Nuno De Cunha to restore to him his wife and sister and in exchange he offered to pay the Portuguese a heavy ransom. The Governor at last acceded to the Raja's wish and restored the princesses to him.

Though peace was restored for the time being troubles started between the Portuguese and the Raja of Purakkad in 1540. The Raja of Purakkad, assisted by one of the Karapuram Kaimals, attacked some Portuguese vessels under Sabastiano De Souza which were sailing from the Maldives. Dom Christavao da Gama, the brother of the Viceroy who was then camping at Cochin, sent an ultimatum to the Raja demanding the immediate return of the vessels he had captured. The Raja replied that the vessels had been attacked by the Karappuram Kaimal over whom he had no control and that he had no responsibility in the matter. On receipt of the evasive reply from the Purakkad Raja Dom Christo De Souza invaded the territories of the Karappuram Kaimal situated between those of Purakkad and Cochin at the head of an army of 600 men. The Kaimal's army was completely routed and he fled from his dominion. The Portuguese then resorted to indiscriminate

plunder and pillage of the area. The Kaimal's city was burnt and about 2,000 coconut trees were cut down. At this stage the Raja of Purakkad interceded in person on behalf of the Kaimal and requested the Portuguese to desist from further acts of vandalism. As negotiations for peace were proceeding the Kaimal and his followers attacked a party of the Portuguese. The incident sparked out further hostilities and the Kaimal and all his followers were slain. The Raja of Purakkad now agreed to a formal treaty of peace and friendship with the Portuguese. With this treaty Purakkad came under the political influence of the Portuguese. The Portuguese even conferred on the Raja of Purakkad the title of "brother in arms" to the king of Portugal.

PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY UNDER THE PORTUGUESE

The Portuguese contact was important from the point of view of the progress of Christianity in Alleppey District. The Chempakasseri Rajas were tolerant monarchs and they permitted the Portuguese missionaries to build churches in various parts of their dominions. One of the Chempakasseri Rajas is said to have erected an altar in the Christian church at Kudamalur, his ancestral home in Kottayam District, in order to atone for his sin of having been a party to the massacre of his fellow Brahmins. The Purakkad church visited by Archbishop Alexis de Menezes is believed to have been erected by a Raja as a token of appreciation of the help rendered by his gallant Christian subjects who fought and won against his enemies displaying the Cross on their banner in the battle field. The Raja who visited the Archbishop is described as "a young man of short stature, but well-proportioned and distinguished among the Rajas of Malabar for his valour and courtesy." The conversation that took place between the Brahmin ruler and the Archbishop throws some light on the nature of the relation that existed between the Portuguese and the native powers of the day. It is thus related by Hough:-

"After courteously saluting him, and taking to himself the credit of protecting the commerce of the Portuguese from pirates and performing other services for that people he (the Raja) said that he hoped these good offices would be deemed sufficient to entitle him to the honour of being called '*Brother-in arms* to the king of Portugal', as the Raja of Cochin had been. The Archbishop's answer showed that he knew how to make the Raja's ambition available for his own purpose.

After returning civilities, he said "that what he had asked for was an honour that the king of Portugal never conferred on any sovereign until he had merited it by some signal service. However, he promised to do what he could to obtain for him the distinction to which he aspired."¹

The Jesuit Letters speak of a king of Purakkad by name Jayavira who tried to secure the help of the Portuguese against his rival kings by favouring the Jesuit Missionaries and trying to detain a Franciscan Friar, Frey Grancisco de Oriento, when he passed through his territory in 1607. In 1615 the successor of Jayavira by name Narayana is said to have invited Jesuit Missionaries from nearby Arathunkal to Parakkad. The Jesuits also seem to have entertained hopes of converting him to Christianity. In the words of Fr. Schurhammer, "Narayana became a catechuman, but never received baptism for fear of his Hindu subjects."²

¹ Quoted in the History of Kerala, Vol. II, K. P. Padmanabha Menon. pp. 112-13

² See Mission work of the Jesuits in Muthedath and Porakkad in the 16th and 17th centuries, p. 27. Fr. Schurhammer gives the following further details about king Narayana and his alleged desire to become a convert to Christianity. "Narayana wrote to King Phillip III telling him that he had become a Christian, and needed military help to defend his kingdom. In 1619 he sent letters also to the Viceroy and to the Pope, asking them to intercede in his favour with the Portuguese Government. But the Viceroy had died when the letter reached Goa. The letter to Phillip III never reached him, and the reply from the Pope was sent only in 1627. In it Urban VIII exhorted the King not to delay Baptism any further. But when it arrived, Narayana was no more. When he felt death approaching him he called for the Friar who stayed at his court, but his entourage did not allow the Priest to enter his room. Yet the Franciscans remained, the Santa Cruz Church of the Thomas Christians was repaired and the other one for the new converts built anew. And the law by which Narayana had promised that converts to Christianity would keep their goods, their office and case, was still in vigour, when Frey Paulo da Trindade wrote, in 1638, his chronicle in which he had preserved for us the text of the King's letter to the Pope, and the latter's reply," (Ibid, pp. 27-28). The Narayana who figures in the episode may be the famous Puradom Tiruna Devanarayana (1566-1622). The ruler was noted for his liberal and eclectic outlook. His demeanour might have roused hopes of conversion in the minds of the Jesuits in the same way as that of Akbar. The Jesuit version seems to have no other value than this.

Christianity was patronised not only in the Purakkad kingdom but also in the kingdoms of Muthedathu and Iledathu ruled by the Kaimals. St. Francis Xavier who was the greatest of the Christian Missionaries who came to Kerala during the Portuguese period had no direct contact with the Alleppey District, though he sailed along the coast from Cochin to Quilon and back at least twelve times. However, the Jesuit College at Cochin started by St. Francis Xavier was to send a number of zealous missionaries to Alleppey in later years. Manuel Teixeira who became the Rector of the Cochin College in 1568 was the first Jesuit Missionary who initiated organised mission work in the Alleppey coast. It is recorded that in 1569 when the Raja of Cochin fell seriously ill Teixeira visited him along with the Portuguese captain. He then met the neighbouring kings and chieftains who had assembled there to see the ailing prince and got from them Permission to build churches and propagate the Christian faith in their dominions. Among the princes and chieftains who thus gave permission were the Raja of Purakkad and the chieftains of Muthedathu and Iledathu.¹ In 1581 the Kaimal of Muthedathu gave permission for the erection of a church at Arathunkal for the Christians in his territory and allowed them to cut timber for the purpose from a nearby temple grove. It was built and dedicated to St. Andrew on 30, November 1581. The Jesuit records testify to the fact that the king of Muthedathu extended his liberal patronage to this church and even attended some of the festivals connected with it. Among the most important of the Jesuit missionaries who worked in the Alleppey coast during the period was Fr. Giacomo Fenicio, an Italian priest. He was the Vicar of Arathunkal from 1584 to 1602 and 1619 to 1632. During the interval before 1602 and 1619 there were troubles between the ruler of Cochin and the Muthedathu Kaimal and the Church of St. Andrew served as a safe place for the custody of the treasures of both parties.

The Jesuits have left records of their work in the District and their impressions of the people and their life. One of the main sources of information for the history of the Alleppey Coast in the 16th and 17th centuries is the *Historia do Malavar* (*The History*

1 The Mission work of the Jesuits in Muthedathu and Porakkad in the 16th and 17th centuries by George Schurhammer may be consulted for details

of Malabar) written by Diogo Gonsalves of the Society of Jesus who worked as a missionary in the coast and was at Arthunkal in 1610¹ In this work written about 1615 A. D. the author throws light on the political and social conditions in Alleppey during the period. The vast majority of the people of the Alleppey Coast consisted of Hindus, but the St. Thomas Christians formed an important part of the population. There was also a Muslim colony in and around Purakkad. The Nairs of the District considered war as their main occupation. Though the coir industry in the modern form had not come into existence, some of the Syrian Christians of Purakkad were merchants who earned their living by trade. However, the majority of the Christians living on the coast were poor fishermen or agriculturists.

CULTURAL PROGRESS IN THE CHEMPAKASSERI KINGDOM IN THE 16th CENTURY

The 16th century witnessed striking progress in the religious and literary fields in the Chempakasseri kingdom. The Chempakasseri Rajas who were popularly known as '*Devanarayanans*' were devout Hindus who patronised Hindu religion and culture. They were also generous patrons of literature and learning. Unfortunately we do not have a complete geneological list of the rulers of Chempakasseri. The most outstanding ruler of Chempakasseri line was Puradom Tirunal Devanarayana who lived in the Portuguese period. He was born in 741 Kollam Era (1623 A. D.).² A great devotee of Sri Krishna, he is credited with the construction of the famous temple at Ambalapuzha and the consecration of the idol of Krishna in it. The idol is said to have been brought from Kurichi in the Tekkumkur Raja's territory and installed in the temple with due ceremonies.³

1 See Kerala Society Papers, Series VI (pp. 307-308) for a brief summary of the work *Historia do Malavar* by F. Diogo Gonsalves.

2 Kerala Sahitya Charitram. Vol. II, p. 353, Uloor S. Parameswara Ayyar.

3 The idol of Sri Krishna rested on its way from Kurichi at Champakulam and on the next day it was carried to Ambalapuzha in an impressive procession of country boats along the Pamba river. The incident took place on a Mulam day in the month of Chingam (August-September) and the Champakulam Vallamkali which is celebrated every year even now as a national festival by the people of Kuttanad commemorates this event. It may be noted that the idol was kept in the house of a Christian subject during its sojourn at Champakulam and that the procession on the next day was attended by peoples of all communities. The incident illustrates the communal harmony that prevailed in the Chempakasseri kingdom.

The reign of Puradam Tirunal Devanarayana was one of spectacular achievements in the field of literature and learning. The Raja was himself a great scholar and poet. According to tradition he had received special training at the hands of the famous Vaishnava sage Vilvamangalathu Swamiyar who had claimed to have seen Vishnu in person.¹ Devanarayana wrote a short philosophical work called *Vedanlaratnamala* which is a commentary on the first verse of the *Bhagavat Gita*. He was equally famous for his patronage of scholars and men of letters. The most distinguished of the scholars patronised by him was Melpathur Narayana Bhattatiri.² The monumental grammatical work *Prakriyasaraswam* was composed by Melpathur in 1616 at the instance of Devanarayana who himself is said to have given a detailed plan for the work. According to a tradition which has no historical basis the

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- 1 According to one view Vilvamangalathu Swamiyar was none other than Lilasuka or Vilvamangalam who composed the Sri Krishna Karnamrutha (See Kerala Sahitya Charitram, Vol. I. Ulloor S. Parameswara Ayyar, pp 155-60). This view is not accepted by other writers like Dr. K. K. Raja (See The Contribution of Kerala to Sanskrit Literature, K. K. Raja, p 127)
- 2 "There is an interesting story about Narayanabhatta's first meeting of the king of Ambalappula. When Narayana visited the temple at Ambalappuzha, the king was informed about the arrival of a learned Brahmin. The king remarked that he was not sure of the Brahmin's Capacity to read correctly. The expression "to read correctly" is Kutti Vavikkuka in Malayalam, which may also mean "reading adding up new matter". In the afternoon Narayanabhatta was asked to read and explain some portions from puranas. The fight between Bhimaseena and Duryodhana in the Mahabharata was the portion selected for reading. In the course of the reading he read a passage thus :- "Duryodhana's army, frightened by the club of Bhimaseena, approached Karna (the hero Karna, or the eary, like the hair on the head of a bald man". The king, who was himself a learned man, asked him whether it was a genuine verse from the text. Narayanabhatta quietly remarked that he had added the verse in order to show him that he knew "Kutti vavikkuka". The king, who was bald, enjoyed the joke very much. The story goes that it was then that the king knew the greatness of the scholar before him. He requested Bhattatiri to forgive his former impertinent remark. Narayanabhatta then and there composed the following verse, praying for the king's long life. "O Lord Devanarayana may you have, till the Great Deluge, that place which Vishnu who has no destruction gives you: for, that indicated by the word which Tarkavaketuh without the consonants will make, namely ayuh or long life". The Contribution of Kerala to Sanskrit Literature, Dr. K. K. Raja, pp 127-28

Prakriyasarvaswa was completed in 50 days. In the introductory portion of this work Narayana Bhattathiri bestows wholesome praise on his royal patron. Another famous scholar patronised by Devanarayana was Nilakanta Dikshitar who came from the Tamil country. Sri Kumara Nimbuthiri otherwise called Kumaran, an authority in Architecture, wrote the *Silparatna* under the patronage of the same ruler. The book is divided into parts, the former containing 46 chapters and the latter 35 and it is considered to be an authoritative work on Architecture.¹ Thus the court of Puradam Tirunal Devanarayana attracted scholars from far and near and the Chempakasseri kingdom became famous all over the south for its patronage of learning and arts.

POLITICAL DIVISION IN THE 17TH CENTURY

In the 17th century the Portuguese power declined in Kerala and the Dutch acquired for themselves a predominant position on the coast. The Alleppey District played an important part in the events of the Dutch period. Before dealing with the history of the period in detail, it would be relevant to consider the political division of the District in the 17th century as gleaned from Dutch sources. The region to the south of the Alleppey District was ruled mainly by the kings of Travancore and Signatti and partly by the ruler of Marta.² The main political divisions comprised in the present Alleppey District were (1) Marta or Karunagapally, (2) Bettimani or Karthikappally, (3) Calicoilan or Kayamkulam, (4) Tercunapalli or Trikunnapuzha, (5) Panapoli, (6) Porca or Purakkad, (8) Tekkumkur.

The principality of Marta was perhaps so called after Marutur-kulangara. Nieuhoff (1664) says that "it lay three leagues to the south of Cochin." According to him it was as large as Kayamkulam, extending to the north as far as Purakkad while in the south it bordered on the Arabian Sea and in the east it was surrounded by high mountains. Mavelikara formed part of this kingdom. The ruler of Marta at times possessed some parts in common with the

1. Among the other outstanding work on Architecture produced in Kerala may be mentioned the *Tantrasamchaya* by Chennas Narayana Namboothiri, *Vasthuvidya* by an anonymous author and *Manushayalaya* Chandrika by Thirumangalathu Neelakanta Nambeesan.

2. See Quilon District Gazetteer for details pp. 116-18

ruler of Kayamkulam. There were many rich Muslim merchants and also a flourishing Christian community in the kingdom of Marta.

The kingdom of Bettimeni (Vattamana in Malayalam), otherwise referred to as Karimball, was a small principality which lay between the northern portion of Kayamakulam and the southern portion of Purakkad.¹ Such places as Karthikapally and Cheppad lay within the limits of this kingdom. Bettimeni had its capital at Karthikapally at the time of Nieuhoff's visit to the kingdom in 1664. He says, "Upon the banks of the same river, where the kingdom of Marten lies, is also the kingdom of Batyma, with its city called Katyapery (Karthikapaly)." ²

The kingdom of Kayamakulam or Calicoilan was bounded by the kingdom of Purakkad in the north and Qullon in the south and it extended to a considerable distance inland stretching from Qullion to the limits of Kuttanad. It comprised within itself portions of the present Karunagapally, Karthikapally, and Mavelikara Taluks.

Tercunapalli or modern Trikunnapuzha was a small bit of land lying on the coast between Kayamakulam and Purakkad. It was under the rule of the Raja of Edapalli called by the Portuguese Rapolim. According to Governor Gollenesse, "Trinkanapalys which is better known among us by the name of Pagodingo is a small piece of land situated along the sea; it stretches from Calicoilan to Poraca and belongs to the king of Repolim; it is governed by the King's Ragiadoors." ³

The principality or Panapoli lay between Kayamakulam and Karthikapally, though it became absorbed in Kayamakulam by adoption at a later date. According to Governor Gollenesse Panapoli "is a small inland state beyond Calicoilan to which it

1 Scholars like M. P. Padmanabha Menon identified Bettimeni with Venmani lying to the north-east of Mavelikara. (Vide History of Kerala, Vol-11 P. 82). The identification is incorrect. The ruler of this principality lived in the Vattamana palace at Karthikapally and hence it was called by the Dutch the kingdom of Bettimeni (See Kerala Charitrathile Iruladanja Edukal Prof. Elamkulam P. N. Kunjan Pilli, p-40).

2 Quoted in the History of Kerala, Vol-11
K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp.89-90

was attached when its ruling family died out. The people of Malabar called the four states above mentioned Cheruvay of Gonaddu Carre, because formerly they were under one queen who divided them among her four daughters.¹ The four states mentioned by Gollennesse are Marta, Kayamkulam, Bettimen and Panapoll.

The kingdom of Purakkad (Chempakasseri or Ambalapuzha) comprised the sea coast from Trikunnapuzha (Pagodingo) in the south to the region of Moutan in the north. It was bounded landwards by Bettimeni, Kayamkulam, Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur.

The kingdom of Moutan (Muttam) which comprised most of the present Shertalla Taluk lay north of Purakkad and extended as far as the free manor of Pallooruty adjoining the town of Cochin. also called Karappuram, it was separated from the uplands on the east by a river and "the great lake" (Vemband lake). Matathinkara, the seat of the ruling house known as Matathinkal, which formed one of the five dynasties that constituted the Perumpadappu Swarupam was situated in this kingdom. It may be mentioned that the ruler of Cochin was often called "Mata Bhupati" after Matathinkal.

Tekkumkur was an independent kingdom which comprised portions of the present Tirruvalla and Kuttanad Taluks of Alleppey District and also Changanacherry and Kottayam Taluks of the Kottayam District. Governor Gallennesse speaks of the kingdom as follows:- "It is a considerable state, it lay between Calicoilan, Berkencoor, the broad river of Carryora and the hills, which exports much pepper and arrack."²

EARLY DUTCH CONTACTS

The earliest Dutch contact with the Alleppey coast took place in 1642. A treaty was concluded between the Dutch Company and the Raja of Chempakasseri (Purakkad) on May 20, 1642 for the delivery of pepper and ginger. The Dutch also undertook to assist the Raja in his local wars. The Raja in turn, gave the Dutch

1 Quoted in the History of Kerala, Vol-II K.P. Padmanabha Menon, p-68

2 Ibid, p-84

3 Quoted in the History of Kerala, Vol-II K. P. Padmanadha Menon, p- 85

mission to build a factory at Purakkad for the protection of their commercial interests. On February 24, 1643 the Dutch merchant Pieter Sijbrant Groes visited Purakkad and on the next day he anchored off Kayamkulam where the Portuguese had a fort. Groes returned to Purakkad in May 1643 and confirmed in the name of the States-General, the Prince of Orange and the Dutch East India Company the treaty concluded between the Purakkad Raja and the Dutch in May 1612. He also concluded fresh treaties with the rulers of Kayamkulam and Purakkad according to which the latter agreed to supply annually to the Dutch all the pepper in their territory in return for such articles as tin, cotton, iron, opium, sandalwood etc. It was also agreed by these rulers that they would not trade with other European powers like the Portuguese, the English and the Danes. As a result of these treaties the Dutch trade in pepper made substantial progress and the Dutch also obtained enormous profits. The Dutch merchant, Matheus Van de Broeck, came to Kayamkulam in 1647 and in 1649 another merchant by name Dirck School also called at the place. In 1650 the Dutch Government sent a present to the Kayamakulam Raja. The Dutch built a warehouse at Kayamkulam with the consent of the Raja. They also bought large quantities of pepper from Purakkad 35 kilometers to the north of Kayamkulam. Thus by 1650 the Dutch had won an advantageous position in respect of ordinary commerce on the Malabar coast.

DUTCH RELATIONS WITH KAYAMKULAM

As the Portuguese were losing their ground in the Kerala coast, the Dutch entertained dreams of substituting them as the major European power and filling in the political vacuum. Having captured all the Portuguese possessions in Ceylon in 1658-59, the Dutch Admiral Van Goens decided to oust the Portuguese from their footholds in Malabar. They captured Quilon from the Portuguese in 1658.¹ Following the Dutch capture of Quilon the fortifications at Kayamkulam were considerably strengthened. The Dutch representatives Adria Roodhan and Ysbrand Godsken concluded the following treaty with Kayamkulam on March 31, 1662.²

1 See *Quilon District Gazetteer*, pp. 119-20

2 The text of the treaty is taken from *A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar*, Dr. T. I. Poonen, pp. 97-98

"Renovation or renewal of the old contract entered into between the deceased king of Kayamkulam and the Company in the year 1643 besides further alliance made between the present King and the above mentioned company agreed and concluded with the Comandeur Ysbrand Godsken and the merchant Jacob Borghorst commissioned thereto by the Lord Rijcklof Van Goens, ordinary councillor of India, Superintendent, Admiral of Chief, Commander and Express Commissaris.

1 That the old contract entered into between the deceased King of Kayamkulam and the Company in 1643 shall continue to be in full force and that, for further alliance and declaration between both nations, the following terms are concluded and agreed.

2 That all pepper produced in the above mentioned King's lands shall be sold to no one other than the above mentioned Company and specially to no European nation, as English, French Portuguese or others whoever it may be.

3 That by land or water by any lake no pepper shall be carried to any place or residence where the above named nations might carry it, especially to Porca, Cochin, etc. and the King shall forbid all the merchants doing so, so that the above mentioned clause might be carried out.

4 And if it should happen that any of the same merchants tried to carry pepper contrary to this treaty and were caught hold of by any of the Company or by the King, that pepper shall be confiscated to the use of the King and the Company each side getting half.

5 Besides this the Company was granted permission to build a stone store-house of such height, thickness and length as the King shall permit on the side of the river it being understood that the same is considered necessary to keep their pepper in security.

All this was made executed and agreed between the above mentioned King of Kayamkulam on the one side and the above named representative on behalf the Dutch East India Company on the other side and are herewith made signed by both sides on four similar copies, two in the Malayalam language and two in Dutch, thereof, for the fulfilment of the same, one in Dutch and one in Malayalam shall remain resting in the King's hands and the other two with the Company. Signed on the last day of March, 1662, in

the Dutch Company's factory at Kayamkulam. In the Malayalam characters by the king of Kayakulam. On the side was signed Ysbrant Godsken and underneath in the absence of the merchant Jacob Borghorst signed Jurisen Hendrick Wellnigh."

Captain Nieuhoff paid a visit to the Kayamkulam Raja in 1664. He says "We arrived at Kalkolam on the 22nd January 1664. I gave notice of my arrival by our interpreter to the King, who soon after returned in company of a Residoor from the King to fetch me to court. Accordingly, I and Mr. Willing, who resided there as under-factor of the Company, were introduced by the said Residoor into the King's presence, whom we found surrounded with a great number of courtiers, that constantly attend his person. After the first ceremonies and compliments, such as are usual in this place, were passed, I surrendered my credentials to the king, who received them with a great deal of respect and seeming satisfaction. This prince had the character of a very sincere person which appeared both in his countenance and actions, but leaves the management of all affairs of moment to the before-mentioned Residoor."¹

The relations between Kayamkulam and the Dutch became cordial after Nieuhoff's visit. The Gricol or Minister of the Kayamkulam Raja assured the Company on February 8, 1665 on behalf of the king of prompt action to subdue the enemies of the Company and uphold the prestige of the Dutch. As proof of his loyalty to the Dutch he surrendered to them a strategic island (Vlieand) between the rivers of Quilon and Kayamkulam, situated right in the middle of the channel. The acquisition of this island was of great advantage to the Dutch in putting down smuggling in pepper by unfriendly powers and their friends.

DUTCH RELATIONS WITH PURAKKAD

The relation between the Dutch and the kingdom of Purakkad are of particular interest to the historian of the Dutch period. In 1663 the Dutch launched their major assault on Portuguese Cochin. In the Historic fight that ensued the Raja of Purakkad, a staunch ally of the Portuguese, arrived in Ernakulam with a detachment of his forces and harassed the Dutch in the rear, but Cochin

¹ A History of Kerala Vol. II, K.P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 64-65

ultimately fell into Dutch hands.¹ Immediately following the Dutch capture of Cochin, the Raja of Purakkad invited the Dutch to establish themselves in the dominion. He even conceded in writing to Admiral Van Goens in January 1663 that his ports had been captured by the Dutch and had consequently become their possession. On 14, 1663 March 1663 the following tripartite treaty was concluded between the Dutch East India Company, the King of Cochin and the Raja of Purakkad².

" 1 Between both parties there shall be a perpetual peace, amnesty and forgetfulness of what has happened before, and consequently, hereafter, an eternal love and affectionateness to each other so long as the sun and moon shall appear.

2 The Raja of Purakkad declares himself an enemy of all who should in any way injure the Kingdom of Cochin, whether they be the Portuguese, other potentates or proprietors, etc.

3 Consequently, the Raja of Purakkad promises not only to make Godavarma evacuate his land, but also to keep him outside the same in the future.

4 The Raja promises to show to the Hon'ble Company the loyalty which he has always shown to the Portuguese.

5 The Raja further promises that he shall never cause cinnamon to be weighed in or exported from his land except with the consent of the King of Cochin and the Hon'ble Company to whom only according to the laws this right due.

6 The Hon'ble Company shall be permitted to build, in the land of the King of Purakkad, a stone ware-house for the security of their goods and the maintenance of their claims.

7 The Raja of Purakkad promised in future not to import into or export from his land any elephant.

8 The Raja of Purakkad promises to return to the Hon'ble Company all the frigates of the Portuguese which are still in his land on the condition that the Hon'ble Company shall pay all the expenses incurred thereon,

1 See *Ernakulam District Gazetteer*, pp. 151-54

2 The text of the treaty is taken from *A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar*, Dr. T. I. Poonen, pp. 140-141

9 And as a proof of the established friendship, the Raja of Purakkad shall raze to the ground 200 cubits of the wall lying against the land of Cochin, leaving, the remaining portion to the pleasure of the Hon'ble Company and the King of Cochin without ever repairing the same.

10 The Company promises reciprocally to give all help against their enemies to the extent their power and fairness shall bear.

11 Generally, the parties agreed that the Company shall enjoy all the privileges the Portuguese had.

12 This was to be written six times and signed by each party, three times on paper in Dutch and three times on silver olas in Malayalam, and each party shall keep two copies, one in Dutch and one in Malayalam."

Captain Nieuhoff who had been specially deputed by the Dutch Company to negotiate agreements with the local rulers and secure for the Dutch the monopoly of the trade in pepper and opium visited Purakkad in 1664 along with Willing. On arrival at the place he was informed that the Raja was in his ancestral home at Kudamalur (Kottayam District) where he had been building a palace for the last 20 years. Nieuhoff proceeded to Kudamalur travelling by boat along the lakes of Kuttanad which evoked in his mind nostalgic memories of his own native land. He was duly received in audience by the Raja. 'After the usual respect paid', says Nieuhoff, 'I delivered to him my credentials which he having received, he ordered all his attendants and my interpreter among the rest to withdraw, because he had a mind to discourse with me alone in Portuguese, which he understood very well. I told him that I was sent on purpose by my masters to His Majesty, to assure him of their friendship, and to pay the money stipulated by the last treaty which sum, though it much exceeded the value of the thing received, yet not withstanding all this my master had thought fit not to recede from what had been promised in their name. The king gave for answer, that it never had been a custom to weigh the pepper at Cochin, (which I had desired should be done) and that therefore he hoped the Company would not introduce any novelties in the territories; assuring us withal, that he would be ready to assist the Company and their officers upon all occasions; besides several other assurances too tedious to be inserted here. I soon understood his meaning, to wit, that he

would not have the pepper trade transferred to Cochin, which was a matter of no great consequence, so I did not insist any longer upon it, but agreed that the pepper should be received and weighed at Porka; assuring him that the Company had never had the least intention to impair anybody's right, as His Majesty might easily be convinced as well by this as several other transactions and treaties made lately with other kings and princes. The king appeared to be highly satisfied thereat, desiring that a factor might be sent thither forthwith, to buy and receive the pepper, which I having promised to the king, he ordered the Residoor to receive the money, and granted me leave to depart."¹

The Raja of Purakkad impressed Nieuhoff as a clever diplomat who tried every means to win the favour of the Dutch. He told Nieuhoff that "he had caused the flags of the English and some other nations to be taken down and the Dutch flag to be set up for which they threatened him with open war in his own territories and refused to quit the country which made him to be looked upon but with a very indifferent eye by all the neighbouring princes." Nieuhoff also gives an account of the Raja and of his administration of the kingdom. "The king then reigning at Porka was a person of 30 years of age, very stately and well-made. He was adorned with many jewels of diamonds and rubies, which he wore on his hands, arms, and ears, according to the Malabar fashion. He is a most absolute prince, acknowledging no superior, every foot of the country being his own and at his disposal. Justice is administered here with extraordinary severity, especially on the account of theft, which makes this crime scarce ever to be heard of here ... which surprised me not a little knowing that the Malabars in general are the rarrantest thieves in nature."²

Nieuhoff further gives us the following description of the kingdom of Purakkad. "The kingdom of Porka, or Porkah, otherwise Perkatti, has borrowed its name from its capital city; it borders to the north upon the kingdom of Cochin, to the south upon that of Kalkoulang; it has Takken Berkenker to the north-east, and the sea to the west, being about 12 leagues in length. It was not till the year 1590 that the Romish religion was openly professed here with consent of the king; tho' many years before

1 Quoted in A History of Kerala, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 117-18

2 Quoted in A History of Kerala, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, p. 119

the Christians called of St. Thomas lived in these parts. The king granted considerable privileges to the Jesuits; such as the building of churches with crosses on the top of them, and the necessary bells, near unto which no pagodas, Jewish synagogues or Mohametan mosques were to be erected; they had also liberty to baptise as many as were willing to embrace the Christian religion, all which was punctually observed...In the year 1640, one Siam Baatschery Vaubaar (Chempasseri Nambutiri) reigned over Porka, They claim a superiority over the king of Cochin against whom they waged heavy wars in former ages; but now-a-days the kings of Porka are under the jurisdiction of the Dutch East India Company, being forced thereunto by their victorious arms; the chief strength of the king of Porka consists in his small frigates, of which he has 500, and are made use of when the fields are overflowed with water. Formerly the Portuguese were masters of the pepper trade here, with the king's consent; but finding that they intended to fortify themselves in several places, he engaged in war against them, which lasted three whole years. The Dutch never came to Porka till 1642, under the reign of Siam Baatschery Vaubaar, being then not above 24 years old; they were very kindly received by him, a treaty being concluded betwixt them at that time, by which the Dutch had the pepper trade granted to them. During the rainy season most of the rice fields hereabouts, as well as all along from the Cape Comorin, as far as Pokare Biarbar, lay under water. This country also produces a considerable quantity of pepper yearly, which is for the most part bought up by the English, who has had a factory here many years ago. Deeper into the country live abundance of Christians who were formerly converted by the Portuguese; these buy the pepper in the country, which they are obliged to deliver to a certain merchant, appointed for that purpose by the king."¹

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DUTCH AND THE ENGLISH AT PURAKKAD

In spite of the gains made by the Dutch Company at Purakkad they had to face opposition from the English on the coast. It may be mentioned in this context that the English had also a factory at Purakkad. The appearance of the Dutch on the scene after the treaty of 1663 spelt ruin to English commerce. Cornelis

Quoted in A History of Kerala, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 118-19

Valkenburg, the Chief Dutch Factor at Cochin, arrived at Purakkad in a ship to take delivery of the cargo of pepper and the English factors sent in their strong protest. The protest was ignored and Dutch ships continued to visit Purakkad to carry pepper. The king of Purakkad was not the least inclined to help the English as he was afraid of the military strength of the Dutch. The English factors at Purakkad, Harrington and Grigsby held on tenaciously to their posts in the face of heavy odds until they were recalled by their superiors at Surat. The former was sent to Surat by the Dutch in November 1664. In the same month the Dutch entered into agreements with the merchants of Purakkad and Kayamkulam by which they undertook to deliver to the Dutch Company a specified quantity of pepper in the course of the year also to pay a fine of 1 lakh fanams if they were found guilty of selling the commodity to any other traders, European or Indian. The king of Purakkad also promised to cut off all trade with the English and even to kill them, if necessary. The Raja also placed his Nair contingents at the disposal of the Dutch Company in order to be of assistance to them in their wars. In 1665 war broke out between the English and the Dutch and the latter immediately seized this opportunity to capture the English factory at Purakkad (July 1665). Alexander Grigsby was captured prisoner. The Dutch commercial interests were now triumphant and the Company made every effort to strengthen their monopoly of the pepper trade on the Kerala coast.

RELATIONS WITH BETTIMENI കടവന

The Dutch brought the kingdom of Bettimeni Karimbali under subjection after much fighting. As penalty for the murder of some of the Dutchmen in his kingdom the ruler was forced to cede some lands on the sea coast to the Dutch Company. This was brought about through the intervention of the ruler of Purakkad, Kayamkulam and Cochin. The Dutch often used Bettimeni as a counterpoise against Kayamkulam in order to safeguard their commercial and political interests in the region. On February 27, 1665, a formal treaty was signed between the Dutch and Bettimeni. The terms of the treaty were as follows:¹

1 The text of the treaty is taken from A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar Dr. T. I. Poonen pp. 173-74

"Translation of (the treaty of) peace and friendship made and concluded between the Hon'ble Lord Rijcklof Van Goens, Admiral and Field commander on behalf of the State of the United Dutch East India Company, and the King of Cochin on the one side, and the Raja of Carembali on the other side.

"1 The above mentioned Raja of Carembali, because of the misdeeds perpetrated by his evil counsellors, transfers his own estate named Calicaroe, with the adjoining ground situated on the sea coast between the southern boundary of Pagodingo (Trikunnapuzha) and the northernmost boundary of Kayamkulam, to the obedience and jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Company with all the Vassals or subjects to the state, ceding the right of rent collection and possession for all time or so long as the sun and moon shall last.

"Secondly, as an act of penitence for the murder of five Dutch or white men, the said Raja shall, with this, hand over to the Dutch Company five persons of Moorish race.

"Thirdly, any of the said Moorish nation, at present permitted in the land or any place in the dominion of the above mentioned Raja of Carembali, shall for ever remain banished.

"Fourthly, (The Raja) gives and conveys to the Hon'ble Company, along with this, the church and the dependent gardens of Betoemeny (or Bethemeny) formerly possessed and occupied by the Portuguese and their Romish protests.

"Fifthly, the above mentioned Raja of Carembali shall hand over to the King of Cochin an elephant as a penalty for the murder of two of the latter's Nayars: when this contract is promptly followed and observed, the above mentioned Raja shall accept the Honble Company as a friend and take them in his protection besides assisting, according to time and opportunity, as reasonableness requires."

A second treaty was again signed at Karthikapally on the 17th July 17, 1672 between the Dutch and the Raja of Bettineni. The treaty confirmed all the previous alliances, made with the Dutch Company and laid down further as follows:¹

1 See A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar, Dr. T. I. Poonen
p. 175

"1. Firstly, the king promises that all the pepper and wild cinnamon produced in his lands shall be sold to no one other than the Dutch company and particularly to no European nation like the English, French, Portuguese, or others whoever it may be.

"2. That by water or land, nor through any inland water ways, no pepper shall be carried to any places of residence where the above nations may be proceeding to, particularly to Porca and Cochin.

"3. The king shall, by interdict, forbid all merchants from carrying the above mentioned articles so that this treaty may be properly kept.

"4. And if it befell that, contrary to this contract, any of the said merchants tried to carry any pepper and were overtaken by the Hon'ble company or the king, the same pepper shall be confiscated to the profit of the king and the Hon'ble company, each side taking one half.

"5. No Moorish merchants, whether coming from outside or dwelling in these lands, shall have the power to trade or export or import any merchandise.

"6. That the Hon'ble company shall have the power, besides confiscation of the above goods, to give severe punishment to all moorish and inland merchants who are found to have exported the forbidden goods.

"7. If any subject of the king or any subject of the Hon'ble Company became involved in disputes, each shall be judged according to the custom and usage of his land.

As a result of the above treaties the kingdom of Bettimani came under the political control of the Dutch.

RELATIONS WITH MARTA

The Dutch also entered into treaty relations with the kingdom of Marta which was an important centre of the Pepper trade. Nieuhoff visited the king in 1664 and tried to get favours from him. He took with him the following letter from his superior Jacob Hustaart:.

"ILLUSTRIOUS PRINCE"

"Nothing could be more welcome to me, than to understand at my first arrival in these parts that your Majesty had always been in a good correspondence with our company. To show your

Majesty what an extraordinary value we set upon your friendship, we have sent John Nieuhoff, a more strict league and friendship. We hope your Majesty will give him entire credit in what he shall propose to you when I shall be ready to acknowledge on the like occasions.

God preserve and give your Majesty a long and happy life"¹

Nieuhoff speaks of the king as follows:-

"He that then reigned (1662-64) was of about 60 years of age, very large of body and a stern countenance; he keeps constantly 1,200 Negroes (Nairs), in pay; his residence was at Carnopoly (Karinagappilli), a place surrounded with an earthen wall of 20 feet high, but appeared much decayed at that time.²" When the Dutch captain raised the question of a trade agreement the king asked him to put his proposals in writing. The demands made by the Dutch were "to forbid the importation of amfion (opium), the peeling of the wild cinnamon and the exportation of pepper. After being vigorously opposed by the Mohamadan Merchants, we overcame all difficulties, the king having granted us all we demanded except the peeling of wild cinnamon."³ Nieuhoff then concluded a formal treaty on February 7, 1664. Its terms were as follows;⁴

"1 Between the parties there shall be a firm and perpetual peace and friendship so that both sides may trust each other.

"2 The King promises that the pepper and wild cinnamon produced in his land will be sold to or be carried by no one other than the Hon'ble Company, especially to no other European nation whoever he may be.

3 That, by water or land, none of the aforesaid spices shall be carried to any place where the English, the French, Portuguese or any other European nation may reside which the King promises all his merchants to forbid.

4 When it be felt that any merchants came to transport or to sell to any other pepper or wild cinnamon, the same shall be seized

1 See A History of Kerala, K.M.Panikkar, p. 194

2 Quoted in The History of Kerala, Vol. II, K. P. Padmanabha Menon pp 62-63

3 Ibid. p. 63

4 The text of the treaty is taken from A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch in Malabar, Dr. T. I. Poonen, pp. 167-68

and made prize by the Hon'ble Company and the King, one half for the King and the other half for the Company.

5 If a subject of the King or a subject of the Company is involved in a dispute, each shall administer justice according to the customs and usage of his country.

6 The king promises that no one shall bring opium to his land either for sale or for exchange against pepper except the Hon'ble Company, and the King and the Company shall be free to seize and make prize all such goods, one half going to His Majesty.

7 The king promises, to the best of his power, to make the merchants pay all outstanding debts, also to make them fulfil promptly at the appointed time all the contracts that have been made.

8 The king begs the Hon'ble Company to look for a house at Peesen¹ or else where a merchant may be lodged to collect and ship the pepper. This has been granted provided His Lordship the Governor will agree.

9 According to the old usage, the usual presents will be given every year, before the shipping of the pepper and not earlier.

A second treaty was concluded between the Dutch and Marta on the 29th January 1665. It confirmed the provisions of the earlier treaty. The Raja of Marta also undertook not to trade with Moorish traders who dealt in contraband goods and to assist the Dutch in collecting their debts. The following are the provisions of the treaty of 1665².

"1 No Moorish traders coming from outside or dwelling in this land will be licensed to trade or to import or export any merchandise.

2 That the Company shall have power, in addition to the confiscation of all forbidden goods imported or exported by Moorish and native merchants, to punish severely such merchants.

3 The Company's people shall, according to their pleasure, establish and maintain, freely and unhindered, on the shore and at other places, guards for supervising the exportation and importation

1 Peesen is Portuguese Peso-weight-house; it was at Panderatourte.

2 The text of the treaty is taken from A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch power in Malabar, Dr. T. I. Poonen, pp. 168-69

of forbidden goods, and the King promises to reinforce such guards by his own Nayars so that there might be no inconvenience to the Dutch.

4 If it happened that the aforesaid guards of the Company were molested or badly treated by any one, then remedy will be taken from the King's Subjects and lands; This was granted by the King and all these things were agreed upon

5 The stone ware-house for the furthering of the Company's trade, already permitted and promised by the King, shall be built by the Company on the shore or at any other place which they consider proper.

6 The merchants of these lands, dealing with the Company and standing in debt to the same, shall be under their power so that payment may be secured and enforced."

A third treaty was concluded between the Dutch and Marta in 1672. It reaffirmed the earlier treaty and contained the following additional clauses:¹

1. "That no Moorish traders will be allowed to export or import any goods in the Raja's dominions on pain of confiscation of the goods and vigorous punishment for the offenders.

2. The Company will be allowed to place guards along the coast who will be assisted by the Nayars when necessary.

3. All the pepper which may be confiscated will be equally divided between the Raja and the Company."

POSITION OF THE DUTCH IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 18TH CENTURY

The Dutch position in the Alleppey District in the beginning of the 18th century was relatively strong. It may be noted that the real motive on the Dutch policy in Kerala was to establish their monopoly of the pepper trade. The sale of pepper by native powers to other merchants, European or native, was considered contraband and the Dutch used all their military power and political influence to enforce their monopolistic right. The agreements entered into with the native powers were primarily motivated by this desire to strengthen the pepper monopoly. However it must be stated that in spite of their best efforts a great portion of

1 The text of the treaty is taken from A Survey of the Rise of the Dutch Power in Malabar, Dr. T. I. Poonen, pp. 169-70

the pepper cargo eluded their vigilance and reached the English vessels. The Dutch also exercised effective political control over the chieftains of the area. They maintained strong establishments at Purakkad and Kayamkulam and dictated their own terms to the Rajahs. In April 1710 they also negotiated a treaty with the chieftain of Karapuram (Moutan) at Aryat by which they secured powers of effective intervention in that area. After the defeat of the Zamorin at Chettuvai (1716-17) the Dutch sent their emissary De Jong to Purakkad and Kayamkulam and entered into new agreement with their rulers with a view to impressing on them the position of primacy which the Dutch enjoyed in Kerala. In the meantime the Zamorin contacted his brother princes in Kerala with the idea of forming a united front against the Dutch and their ally the Raja of Cochin. Johannes Batta, the Dutch Resident at Kayamkulam reported in 1729 that the Zamorin had sent a communication to the Raja of Kayamkulam through his emissary by name Paramaswara-Pattar requesting the Raja to attack Cochin from the south. Another aspect of Dutch policy was to set the native chiefs against one another in order to strengthen their position on the coast. The Raja of Kayamkulam engaged himself in a war with the ruler of Mirta and the hand of the Dutch was clearly visible behind this development. It was while the Dutch were thus actively interfering in the affairs of the native principalities that Travancore rose to political prominence under Marthanda Varma (1729-58) and thwarted their design of establishing permanent political hegemony in the area.

MARTHANDA VARMA & THE WAR WITH KAYAMKULAM

The reign of Marthanda Varma (1729-58) of Travancore marks an important phase in the history of the Alleppey district. It saw the absorption of the local principalities and the integration of the whole of the present District in the State of Travancore. This consummation was brought about by a series of wars between Travancore and the local kingdoms like Kayamkulam, Purakkad etc. Early in his reign Marthanda Varma was forced by circumstances into a war with the Raja of Kayamkulam. The Travancore (Trippappur) ruler was having a family feud with Unnikerala Varma, the ruler of Quilon.¹ In 1731 the latter strengthened his position by the adoption of a prince from Kayamkulam and thereby forging alliance with that State. He also conquered East Kallada which

¹ See Quilon District Gazetteer, p.128

belonged to Trippappur. Both the actions of the Quilon ruler were resented by Marthanda Varma. The Trippappur army under the command of Dalava Arumughom Pillai marched against Quilon and captured the city after a decisive engagement. The Raja was forced to cancel the adoption and acknowledge the authority of Marthanda Varma. Unnikerala Varma was also constrained to transfer his residence to Trivandrum where he was lodged in the Valiakoikkal palace as a state prisoner.

The Raja of Kayamkulam was alarmed at the developments, in Quilon. Marthanda Varma had also in the meantime seized the state of Marta which adjoined Kayamkulam in the south. He did this by giving one of the Attingal princesses in adoption and at the same time keeping the whole authority in his own hands. The Kayamkulam Raja now entered into an alliance with the Raja of Cochin and sent secret emissaries to Trivandrum to instigate the Raja of Quilon to escape from prison. Unnikerala Varma made good his escape and joined his friends in the north. He was promptly assured of help by the Dutch as well as by the rulers of Kayamkulam and Cochin. The Raja of Kayamkulam now invaded Marta or Karunagapally. His men insulted the Raja of Attingal who was then residing in the Nedumpuram palace at Tiruvalla and the latter sought asylum in the temple *Sankulam*. Marthanda Varma who was provoked by this development proceeded to take effective action against the defiant rulers of Quilon and Kayamkulam. The Kayamkulam Raja sent Eswara Bhattatiri, one of his ministers to the Dutch Governor Maten in 1733 in order to seek Dutch help against Travancore, but the Dutch were not inclined to oblige Kayamkulam as they felt that the ruler had only invited unnecessarily the wrath of Marthanda Varma by committing an act of wanton aggression against Karunagapally. The Dutch Governor, however, suggested that Kayamkulam forces might join with those of Nedumangad (Peritalli or Peraka Tavazhi) whose ruler had taken a hostile stand against Travancore and refused permission to the Travancore forces to march through his territory to attack Kayamkulam. The combination of the forces of Kayamkulam and Nedumangad was effectively prevented by Marthanda Varma by seizing Nedumangad and Kottarakara both of which were ruled by the Elayadathu Swarupam.

In 1734 Marthanda Varma removed the members of the Elayadathu family to his own capital. The war against Kayamkulam was continued by the ruler with the help of a large army equipped with

fire-arms supplied by the English at Anjengo and the French at Mabe. While one section of the Travancore army attacked Quilon the other proceeded against Kayamkulam. After several indecisive engagements the Raja of Kayamkulam who had commanded his army in person was killed in an encounter in 1734 A.D. The king's *Chavettuhar* (suicide squads) continued the fight till all of them without exception were killed, but the resistance of Kayamkulam could not be completely crushed. The Raja's brother who now ascended the throne continued the war with unabated vigour. The new ruler was more powerful as he had succeeded to the throne of Quilon as well by virtue of the adoption of 906 K.E. (1731 A.D.). The Kayamkulam army assisted by the Dutch forces at Thangassery advanced as far as south as Attingal. Rama Varma, the heir-apparent of Travancore, proceeded to Viralam near Attingal and held out against the enemy in the face of heavy odds. Meanwhile, Marthanda Varma hastened to the place at the head of a large army and put the besiegers to flight. The story is also told in this connection of a conspiracy hatched by the ruler of Kayamkulam against Marthanda Varma. The Raja is said to have instigated some of the *Madam pimars* (Nair nobles) to plot the assassination of Marthanda Varma in the course of the *Arat* procession in Trivandrum from the Padmanabhaswami temple to the beach. He is also said to have promised to send to Trivandrum some of his own men to help the conspirators in carrying out their nefarious plan. The conspiracy was, however, detected in time and Marthanda Varma took all measures to ensure his safety. The conspirators were arrested and severely punished and their properties confiscated to the State.

The expansionist policies pursued by Marthanda Varma sparked off conflicts not only with Kayamkulam but also with other principalities in the north. In 1736 the Raja of Kottarakara (Elayadathu Swarupam) died and the princess escaped to Tekkumkur where she was received with great hospitality. The cause of the princess was championed by the Dutch also. It may be noted that the Dutch had by this time decided on open rupture with Travancore especially since the latter was cultivating very friendly relations with the English. The Dutch Governor of Cochin called upon the Travancore ruler to desist from his aggressive activities, but Marthanda Varma was not prepared to effect any change in his policies to placate the Dutch. In 1741 Van Imhoff installed the princess as the ruler of Elayadathu Swarupam in open defiance of the Travancore Raja. In the war that followed the combined forces of the Dutch and

Blayadthu Swarupam were decisively beaten by the forces of Travancore. The princess fled to Cochin and placed herself under the protection of the Dutch.

In 1741 the Dutch plans to conquer Travancore and establish political hegemony over South Kerala were foiled by their defeat in the battle of Calachel (Kanyakumari District).¹ The Dutch thereafter concentrated their attention on the territories bordering Quilon. The Dutch fort at Quilon was ably defended by the soldiers of Kayamkulam under the command of Achuta Warriar, the valiant minister of the Kayamkulam Raja. The Travancore army under Ramayyan Dalva launched an assault on the fort but they were forced to retreat with considerable loss. In the wake of this success the Dutch and the Kayamkulam forces proceeded further Southwards and captured Kilimanur in 1742. Marthanda Varma now mobilised a few squadrons of cavalry from the neighbouring Tamil District of Tirunelveli and proceeded at their head to Kilimanur. The army which went into action consisted of three divisions commanded by prince Rama Varma, Ramayyan Dalava and D'Lannoy while Marthanda Varma himself held the supreme command. After a siege lasting for 68 days the Dutch and the Kayamkulam forces surrendered and the fort was taken. The remnants of the army retreated to Quilon with heavy loss.

TREATY OF MANNAR (1742)

The Travancore army now advanced up to Kayamkulam. The Raja offered resistance but he was eventually forced to sue for peace. A treaty was concluded at Mannar in 917 K.E. (1742 September). The conditions of the treaty were as follows:-

- 1 that the Kayamkulam Raja should be a tributary of the king of Travancore
- 2 that the enemies of Travancore should be considered as his enemies and treated accordingly.
- 3 that he should pay annual tribute of Rs. 1,000 and an elephant to Travancore, and
- 4 that he should cede a large portion of his territory to Travancore.

The treaty of Mannar was a severe blow to the Dutch. Having realised that continued hostility with Travancore was disastrous to their trade interests in Kerala the Dutch Governor approached

¹ See Trivandrum District Gazetteer. p.195

Marthanda Varma with proposals for an amicable settlement. A conference was held at Mavelikara (1742) which was attended to by Krishnan Annavi, Ramayyan Dalava and Kunju Muthathu Karyakkar representing Travancore and Ezikiel Rabbi and Silvester Mendez representing the Dutch. The following extract from the Memorandum from the Governor of Gollennesse, written in 1743 throws light on the details of the negotiations that took place at Mavelikara.

"During this war we have endeavoured to open peace negotiations with the Raja of Travancore every year before the beginning of the campaign but this proud prince has not condescended to reply to our friendly olas on the subject. Last year he sent some persons to Climanur to treat with us, but his demands were so unreasonable that we could not listen to them. This was all the more surprising as the Company's arms were at that time prospering greatly and we had recently conquered the province of Climanur and were ready to invade Attinga; you may easily judge from this how presumptuous he has become since we have had to leave the field. However on concluding a peace with the Signatty at Manattu in September last, His Highness expressed in strong terms to the kings of Cochin and Tekkuncur his great desire to become reconciled with the Hon'ble Company and he requested the above-mentioned kings to effect this by their mediation, adding threats in case they should be found careless on this point.

"We then flattered ourselves that a reasonable peace might be expected in the near future. But the above mentioned mediators were by no means anxious to exercise their good offices and in spite of our many requests and exhortations we could not get even so far in three months as to get a place fixed for the negotiations. As it was quite apparent that there would never be any end to this, we resolved to leave those unwilling mediators alone and to address ourselves direct to the king of Travancore. Out-wardly he showed himself very willing and sent his representatives Krishna Anavy, the Dellawa and Cuchu Mussadu to Mavilcarre, a place situated in the little kingdom of De Martha; Ezechiel Rabbi and the Captain of the Topasses, Silvester Mendes, were sent to the same place on behalf of the Company. After the lapse of a month, matters had proceeded so far that we were on the point of sending some members of our Council thither to settle the affair finally.

"But the Travancore Rajadores, with their usual craftiness, all of a sudden and quite unexpectedly declared that His Highness changed his mind and refused to approve what they had conceded

and that it would be necessary to go with them to His Highness at Tirvananda Poram (Trivandrum) to settle these points. Our representatives gathered from various circumstances that if they refused they would be taken by force and so pretended to agree to the proposal and only asked to be allowed to go to Cochin first, to receive further instructions from us. In this way they escaped from the hands of those faithless Malabaris. A full account of all this will be found in the correspondence which has been collected in a separate bundle, and in the papers concerning the peace negotiations with the representatives of the king of Travancore at Mavilcarre and avoid prolixity I refer your Worship to those documents.

"In the meantime we strongly remonstrated against such proceedings with the Raja of Travancore and His Highness seemed to be sorry and requested that the former representatives should once more be sent to the Quilon Paro to reopen the negotiations. Having thought over the matter carefully it was decided in the Council of Malabar that the undersigned himself should go to the coast of Travancore together with the ships and smaller vessels which were on hand, since owing to the distance of the place and the usual dilatoriness of the Malabaris in transacting business there would not otherwise be the slightest hope of settling the matter this good monsoon.

"With this view the Captain of the Topasses Silvester Mendes was sent in advance to re-open the negotiations which had been broken off. He arrived at Paro and began again to treat with the above mentioned Rajadores. In his letter of the 18th of February he intimated that he had no great hopes of success and as a matter of fact on my arrival at Quilon I found the said representatives entirely untractable. Having agreed with them on some point one day they had no scruple about retracting next day and always on the plea that such was His Highness's pleasure, hinting that it was wrong of His Highness to be so changeable. The more concessions I made, the more impertinent became their demands.

However after much trifling, we had proceeded so far that we had hopes again of seeing a satisfactory settlement of affairs before long; but this did not last long. On the third of this month the said Captain of the Topasses came to me with the news that His Highness declines to deliver up the deserters nor will he return the guns, war material, cash and other effects taken in the war, on the ground of a counter account which His Highness had handed in of all the

damages he had suffered during the war alleged to amount to fully 3 or 400,000 rix—dollars; the promised pepper would be supplied for not yless than 54 rupees a candy; the old contract must be annulled, the Company's merchandise must pay duty in His Highness's country; the Hon'ble Company must assist His Highness when necessary not only with gun powder and lead but also with cannon, mortars bombs, bombardiers, gunners and musketeers. The Hon'ble company must fight the French if they should try to compel His Highness to keep his promises with regard to Colletje (Colachel) and also keep the Armanese out of His Highness's country; if His Highness wished to go to war with any one, the Hon'ble Company must bind herself to remain neutral; and similar absurdities; and as the above mentioned Captain had some difficulty in obtaining permission to come to me, I did not think it advisable to send him there again, but wrote to His Highness's representatives that their proposals being unacceptable I did not wish to treat any further, but would take my departure.

"I requested that the baggage of Silvester Mendes might be sent on. The request was granted and with the same messenger four olas arrived, two for the officer in command of the troops and two for the above-mentioned Captain. With their usual craftiness they pretended in these olas that they had not been able to understand why the negotiations has been broken off and asked to be told the reason and made it pretty clear that they would be glad to re-open them. I at once sent them a new draft of several articles so drawn for the most part apparently as they themselves had desired but really cut on an entirely different model and subject to the approbation of their Right Worshipfuls, with the view, as there was little hope of a reasonable peace, that this expedient might at least be looked on as involving a year's truce and meanwhile we could recover our captives and war material and also live in peace until the answer of their Right Worshipfuls should arrive.

"Upon this the king at once sent his representatives, who had already returned to him at Atingen, back again to Paro and wrote in very friendly terms that he would endeavour to settle the differences in two or three days and that there were only one or two points which were to be altered, adding that he had not been able quite to understand some things in the draft. I despatched the late Captain of the Lascorins, Isaackz (who had meanwhile been sent for from Cochin on account of the ignorance of the Interpreter Alewijn) and also the Captain of the Topasses, Silvester Mendes: there to inquire

of the representatives what His Highness wished to have changed in the treaty and to explain to them what they pretended not to understand. Next day these officers informed us in a short letter that there was no change for the better and that in spite of their specious promises all the Travancore proposals were full of craft and ambiguity. and in fact His Highness declared straight out in an ola received on the 6th instant that he was not inclined to conclude the treaty of peace subject to the approbation of their Right Worshipfuls nor to forego his unreasonable demands. So we ordered our representatives to return to Coilan. Thus ended the Peace negotiations at Pulicarro. All that took place there may be seen in detail in a bundle of papers connected with the peace negotiations at Pulicarro with the representatives of the king of Travancore.

"Meanwhile the king of Travancore does not seem to be disinclined to reopen the negotiations once more with your Worship though I cannot quite understand with what object; perhaps he wants to see whether your Worship will show a little more compliance or, being particularly embittered against me, he would rather settle the matter with your Worship. My opinion is that your Worship should not refuse to treat with him and as I am convinced that there is no chance of a reasonable peace without having a powerful force in the field. there will be no need for hurry but you may take things quite easy after their own fashion and in the meantime you will have peace. It would be more in accordance with the respect due to the Company and safer for their representatives if a neutral place is fixed upon for the conferences." 1

It may be noted in this connection that Marthanda Varma refused to treat the Dutch as a political power and hence the negotiations at Mavelikara inevitably broke down. The talks were subsequently held at Paravaur near Quilon on two occasions but they too proved abortive. At this stage the Raja of Kayamkulam violated the provisions of the treaty of Mannar and was again on the war path. He refused to pay regularly the annual tribute due to Travancore under the treaty. To make matters worse, he also forged an anti-Travancore alliance with the rulers of Vadakkumkur, Tekkumku and Purakkad. In 1745 the Travancore army under Ramayyan Dalava advanced towards Kayamkulam in order to enforce payment of the arrears of tribute. Ramayyan met with practically no opposition on the way and from his camp at Mavelikara he called upon the

Raja to surrender to Travancore, At this critical juncture the Raja did not get the expected help from his allies and he was left with no alternative but to surrender or flee from his kingdom. He requested the Dalava to allow him a few day's time to pay up the arrears or to arrange the surrender of his kingdom. He then sent his family in disguise to Trichur. All the valuables in the palace were collected and thrown into depths of the Kayamkulam lake and the Raja himself fled from his country.¹ But the Raja's subjects offered resistance to the invaders. After a series of engagements the Travancore army captured the Kayamkulam fort and entered the palace where they found the rooms bereft of even ordinary furniture. In the course of the search of the palace it was found that the arms and military stores kept therein bore the name of Devanarayana, the ruler of Ambalapuzha. Moreover the Raja had also left behind him his desk containing correspondence with neighbouring chiefs and this too fell into the hands of the Travancore army. Marthanda Varma thus obtained positive evidence of the complicity of the rulers of Ambalapuzha, Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur in the campaigns of the Kayamkulam Raja against Travancore.

CONQUEST OF AMBALAPUZHA (1746)

The Travancore ruler now decided to conquer all the northern principalities which had sided with Kayamkulam. He first proceeded against Ambalapuzha. The Travancore forces were led by Ramayyan Dalava and the Ambalapuzha forces by Mathur Panikkar and Tekkedathu Bhattatiri. The two armies met at Tottapalli where a grim battle was fought. The Ambalapuzha soldiers were armed with poisoned arrows invented by the Raja himself and they held back the Travancore forces for about a week. Nevertheless, the tide of the war turned in favour of Travancore as soon as D' Lannoy, the

1 Governor Gollennesse wrote about this Raja and his kingdom as follows in 1743, "Calicoilan is a beautiful small State stretching from the sea far inland; it lies between Pandalam, Tekkenkur, Elleda Surowan, Martencore, Porca and Tirkenapoly or Pagodingo. The King of this State also possesses the States of Collan and Pannapilly. He is a man of understanding and courage but his profligacy and fickleness mar all other good qualities: he is not exactly avaricious but rather wasteful, and as his own means do not suffice he gathers and scrapes together as much as he can, and for this reason he may rightly be called grasping. He has 15,000 Nayars who were formerly looked upon as the best in Malabar, but in the last war they behaved with unheard of cowardice; the strange conduct of the King no doubt contributed greatly to this: his people are far from loving him, and they do not think him worthy that they should risk their lives in his interests." A History of Kerala, Vol. II - P. Padmanabha Menon, pp.67-68

Commander-in-Chief, arrived on the scene at the head of a contingent of Muslim and Christian soldiers. Mathur Panikkar and Tekkedathu Bhattatiri now proved disloyal to their chief and joined the side of Travancore. Having found further resistance useless, the Raja of Ambalapuzha surrendered to Marthanda Varma. His territories were annexed to Travancore (1746) and he was taken as a prisoner to Trivandrum and from there to Kudamalur and granted a liberal pension. The Tekkedathu Bhattatiri was rewarded with authority to manage the affairs of the Ambalapuzha temple. Mathur Panikkar was granted certain special privileges which included the right to accompany the Travancore rulers with his own *valloms* and retinue of boatmen during their tours in North Travancore. The annexation of Ambalapuzha was systematically followed up by the conquest of the neighbouring principalities of Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur and their absorption into Travancore in 1749-50¹.

TREATY OF MAVELIKARA (1753)

The annexation of Kayamkulam, Purakkad, Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur shattered all the hopes of the Dutch to establish their political hegemony in the area. Consequently, they opened negotiations for peace with Travancore in 1747. A formal treaty was drawn up and it received the approval of the Batavian Government in October 1748. But as the Cochin Raja suggested some modifications, the final ratification of the treaty was delayed till 15th August 1751. The treaty is known as the treaty of Mavelikara. Under this treaty the Dutch undertook to follow thereafter a strict policy of peace, to avoid all involvements in native disputes and never more to resort to force except in self-defence. The 9th article of the treaty clearly provided for the abrogation of all the agreements entered into by the Dutch with the other Kerala places with whom the King of Travancore might be at war and an additional assurance on their part not to afford any assistance or shelter to these princes. The treaty marked the complete humiliation of the Dutch as they had to throw their native allies and leave them to the mercy of Travancore. It also marked the end of the Dutch as a political power in Kerala.

DISPUTE WITH COCHIN ON THE ISSUE OF KARAPURAM

The annexation of the northern principalities was followed by serious political unrest among the people of these areas. The exte

¹ The subject will be dealt with in the Kottayam District Gazetteer

Rajas of Ambalapuzha, Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur sought the help of the Cochin ruler for recovering their lost dominions. The Cochin ruler had his own grievances against Travancore which made him espouse the cause of these vanquished princes. Marthanda Varma had taken possession of the rich temple of Tiruvalla over which the Cochin Raja claimed sovereign rights from early days. The action of the Travancore ruler infuriated the Cochin Raja. To make matters worse, Marthanda Varma also took sides against the ruler of Cochin in the internal dissensions in the Cochin royal family. There was a dispute in Cochin at this time between the ruling Raja and another senior prince in regard to the assumption of title of Perumpadappu Mappu.¹ The rebel prince known as the Chazhur Tampan approached Marthanda Varma for help against the ruling chief. The Travancore army was promptly despatched to Karapuram (Shertalla-Taluk) which then belonged to Cochin. The whole tract was conquered and the Chazhur Tampan was put in possession of it as a feudatory of Travancore. It was immediately after these developments that the rulers of Cochin and Travancore met at Mavelikara in 1753 under Dutch auspices to negotiate a treaty. At this meeting the Raja of Cochin agreed to sell all the pepper at Cochin except 500 candles, to Travancore, to surrender to that State the rights over the temples at Tiruvalla and Haripad and also to pay an indemnity of Rs. 25,000. However, the issue of Karapuram and the Chazhur Tampan's cropped up in the negotiations between the two rulers and the conference broke up without any firm agreement.

BATTLE OF AMBALAPUZHA (1754)

In the meantime the movement that took shape in the newly conquered northern tracts of Travancore State assumed the character of a popular revolt against Marthanda Varma's authority. The Dutch and the nobility of Cochin were in sympathy with the cause of the rebels and the Cochin Raja took the lead in rallying the force of resistance to Travancore. Thousands of Nairs were mobilised by the Raja's officials in Mattancherri and Palluruthi and they were soon joined by the militia of the Pallath Achan and other chiefs and the forces of Ambalapuzha, Tekkumkur, and Vadakkumkur. The army was commanded by Palliyil Idikkela Menon, an able administrator and gallant soldier in the service of Cochin. The Cochin forces landed at Purakkad and took up positions there by the end

¹ See Ennakulam District Gazetteer, p.166

of December 1753. Another detachment of the army marched through Karapuram and joined the main contingent. They took up their position at Anandeswaram and entrenched themselves behind stockades. The Travancore forces under prince Rama Varma, Dalava Ramayyan and Captain D' Lannoy met them in decisive battle. A serious encounter took place at Anandeswaram on the 3rd January 1754. Both sides suffered heavy loss, the loss of Cochin being far heavier. But owing to the numerical superiority of the Cochin forces the Travancore army could not win a decisive victory. Towards the evening the Cochin forces withdrew to Ambalapuzha and regrouped themselves. The Travancore army which had been strengthened in the meantime by the addition of the cavalry unit marched to Ambalapuzha and engaged the Cochin forces in a short but decisive battle. The rout of the Cochin forces was complete and they retreated in confusion. A large number were slain and many were taken prisoners. Among the latter were Idikkela Menon, Kodasseri, Paliath Achan, Chankarankotha Kaimal, the Fifth Kaimal of the Third Kaimal of Panamukkat and Cheraman Unni of Thottasser Thalassennor's family. All except the first and the last were later released on payment of ransom. But Idikkela Menon and Cheraman Unni were left to their fate and eventually executed.¹

The victory of Ambalapuzha boosted the morale of the Travancore forces. One division of the army under Ramayyan advanced to the north and another under prince Rama Varma crossed over to Kumarskam on the eastern shore of the Vembanad lake and advanced to the north-east. Ramayyan seized all the strongholds and captured many prisoners on the way. Among the strongholds captured was Madhathumkara where the Cochin royal family had a palace. Ramayyan also conquered the whole of Karapuram and set up his camp at Arukutti. Prince Ramavarma soon took possession of all Cochin territories as far as Ulayamperur in the south and Mamala in the east. At this stage the Raja of Cochin sued for peace and further advance of the Travancore forces was stopped. Travancore retained possession of the conquered tracts as far as Arukutti.

TRAVANCORE—COCHIN ALLIANCE 1757

The invasion of the Cochin kingdom by the Zamorin at this juncture (1755-57) introduced a new element in the relations between

¹ See also Ernakulam District Gazetteer, pp. 170-71

Travancore and Cochin. The Zamorin's forces occupied large portions of the Cochin territory and even an invasion of Travancore seemed to be imminent. Marthanda Varma made preparations to meet the impending threat by collecting his forces at Arukutti and Purakkad. When the Zamorin's forces landed at Purakkad D'Lannoy, and Ramayyan Dalava fell upon them and drove them out with heavy loss of life. Before the Zamorin could embark on another invasion, Haidar Ali had descended on Malabar and upset his plans. The Cochin Raja in the meantime proceeded to Trivandrum and concluded a treaty of alliance with Travancore in 932 ME (1757). By this treaty which reaffirmed the earlier treaty of 1753 the two Rajas undertook to live in friendship forgetting all former feuds and not to give support to each other's enemies. Cochin also agreed to cede to Travancore all the territories already conquered and occupied by Travancore and again to allow her to purchase for cash annually all the pepper produced in the country with the exception of 500 candies reserved for internal consumption. One of the clauses favourable to Cochin was that the Chazhur Tampans were deprived of their sway over Karapuram. Ten years later they were also made to relinquish their claim to the title of Perumpadappu Mooppu.

INTERNAL PROGRESS

The defeat of the hostile confederacy and the suppression of the political unrest in the northern areas of the State gave Marthanda Varma some respite to attend to the work of internal consolidation and reform. The area comprised in the present Alleppey District came in for his special attention. Captain D'Lannoy, the Commander-in-chief of the Travancore forces, who was specially deputed to the north to strengthen the defences of the State repaired and strengthened, among others, the fort at Mavelikara. A notable achievement of Marthanda Varma in this District was the construction of the Krishnapuram palace which is now being preserved as a protected monument by the State Department of Archaeology. The Travancore ruler was also a great patron of literature and he carried off from the court of the ruler of Ambalapuzha the great and talented poet Kunjan Namblar and installed him in Trivandrum. Mavelikara in this District was given a place of honour by Marthanda Varma in the administrative set up of the new State. A set of large buildings was built here to house the newly organised Commercial Department of the State as well as the office (Cutchery) of the Dalava. Among the many warehouses (Pandakasalas) established in the State by

Ramayyan to store pepper, tobacco, cassia, arecanut and other articles of state trade was the one at Mavelikara. Incidentally it may be mentioned here that it was while he was living at Mavelikara attending to the affairs of the State that Ramayyan Dalava passed away in 1756.

CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM UNDER THE DHARMA RAJA (1758-98)

The reign of Raja Rama Varma (1758-98) of Travancore otherwise known as the Dharma Raja, saw the continuation of the policies of Marthanda Varma and the consolidation of the territorial gains made by him in the District. One of the earliest events of the reign was the treaty between Travancore and Cochin in Dhanu 937 K. E. (December 1761 A.D.) under which the Cochin Raja undertook to give up all his claims to the principalities of Ambalapuzha, Tekkumkur and Vadakkumkur and not to render any help to the exiled chiefs of these kingdoms against Travancore. The deposed Raja of Ambalapuzha was permitted to stay at Trichur on condition that he should not be allowed to carry on any correspondence with Cochin or any other power. The Karappuram tract in this District which had been for long the bone of contention between Travancore and Cochin was formally ceded to Travancore under the provision of this treaty. It may be noted that at the time of the agreement Karapuram was already in the possession of Travancore and that the provision for its formal cession by Cochin was made in the treaty in order to prevent all possible disputes about it in future.

During the reign of the Dharma Raja the District was benefited by the reforms introduced by two able ministers, Ayyappan Marthanda Pillai, and Raja Kesava Das. The former constructed fortifications at Krishnapuram. The palace at Krishnapuram was further (improved) and a public road from Quilon to Purakkad was opened via Krishnapuram. Causesways were built in the tract between Haripad and Purakkad in order to provide convenience to the travelling public. Rest Houses were also opened at important places in the District. Raja Kesava Das laid the foundations of the economic prosperity of modern Alleppey. This illustrious Dewan opened a new port at Alleppey which was at the time "a mere jungle inhabited by jackals and monkeys". The far-sighted statesman that he was, Kesava Das had the vision to appreciate the natural advantages of the place which provided a safe anchor to ships in winter. Within a short period Alleppey was converted into a port town and a warehouse and a few shops were opened. Merchants.

artisans and labourers from outside were encouraged to settle down at Alleppey in large numbers. Traders from Bombay, Kutch and Sind were prevailed upon to start branches of their firms at Alleppey and the Government also gave them all the necessary facilities for carrying on profitable trade. In order to attend to their needs and ensure their continued stay in Alleppey, the Dewan also built a Hindu temple and Cutcherry in the town in addition to a palace for the Maharaja to stay in whenever he visited the town. A timber depot was also opened at Alleppey in view of its commercial importance and Mathu Tarakan, a rich Syrian Christian merchant, was given the monopolistic right to collect all the timber of North Travancore and store it in the depot for sale. The Sirkar agents known as *Vicharaippukars* who were stationed in the various parts of Travancore State were to collect all the hill produce such as cardamom, honey, wax, ivory etc. and sent them to Alleppey. Three ships were built at state expense in order to carry on trade with the other ports of India, particularly Bombay and Calcutta. Several canals and roads were also constructed with a view to improving communications from the backwater to the new port. The backwater as far as the Pallathuruthiar was deepened and coconut trees were planted on either side. These reforms of Raja Kesava Das made Alleppey the premier port town of Travancore. It would be no exaggeration to call Raja Kesava Das the 'Maker of Modern Alleppey'.

ALLEPPEY UNDER VELU THAMPI

The Alleppey District received further attention at the hand of Velu Thampi during the reign of Bala Rama Varma (1798-1810). Both as Mulaku Matiseela Karyakar (Commerce Minister) and Dalava, Velu Thampi took a keen interest in the development of the town and port of Alleppey on proper lines. He opened a net work of roads for traffic from various directions and established weekly and bi-weekly markets at important places in the neighbourhood. Velu Thampi even made Alleppey his headquarters for a short period from 1802 to 1805 in order to supervise in person the work connected with the development of the Alleppey port. He cleared the bushy island of Patiramanal, then a den of bandits in the middle of the Vembanad lake north of Alleppey and brought the whole area under coconut cultivation. Several other uncultivable areas in the District were also brought under paddy cultivation by the Dalava.

Alleppey figured prominently in the political events connected with the stormy life of Velu Thampi. In the beginning of his term

of office as Dalava Velu, Thampi had to face serious opposition from some of his erstwhile friends and colleagues. They prevailed upon the (ruler) to issue writ for his arrest and execution. The Dalava was at this time residing in Alleppey. On receipt of the dismal tidings he proceeded to Cochin and sought the help of the British Resident, Col. Macaulay. The latter advised him to seek an audience with the Raja at Trivandrum but the Dalava's mission to the south was not successful. Col. Macaulay, thereupon, interfered in the dispute on the Dalava's behalf. He came to Trivandrum with a few contingents of the subsidiary force stationed at Quilon. The leaders of the faction were arrested and confined to the prison at Mavelikara and Alleppey. Many of them later died in jail. The demand for the dismissal of Velu Thampi was again put forward by his enemies when the Dalava effected economy in expenditure by reducing the allowance paid to the soldiers in the army. A section of the army mutinied and clamoured for the immediate dismissal of the Dalava. Velu Thampi again escaped from Alleppey to Cochin and secured the assistance of Col. Macaulay. The mutiny was ruthlessly suppressed.

The events described above took place during the period when Velu Thampi maintained very cordial relations with the English. Before long he came into clash with Col. Macaulay and decided to wipe out British authority from Travancore.¹ One Sabbayyan who had been sent to Alleppey to negotiate with the Dalava died under suspicious circumstances and this led to open rupture between Velu Thampi and the English. The Dalava had by this time made elaborate preparations for the final fight. He entered into an alliance with the Paliath Achan, his counterpart in Cochin. On 18th December 1808 a body of 600 men under the Paliath Achan and two of Velu Thampi's senior officers stormed the Residency at Cochin and tried to capture Macaulay. The Resident had, however, a narrow escape. Velu Thampi was at this time residing at Alleppey and active in organising the resistance movement against the British.

A tragic episode which took place at Alleppey during this period deserves special mention. A party of 3 European military officers and another one consisting of 12 European soldiers of the 12th Regiment and 33 Indian soldiers who were proceeding from Quilon to Cochin were intercepted near Purakkad and captured prisoners. The story goes that one batch was drowned off the Purakkad coast

¹ See Trivandrum District Gazetteer, pp. 214-17 and Quilon District Gazetteer, pp. 133-38

and the other thrown into the Pallathuruthi river on the eastern bank of Alleppey with "heavy stones tied round their necks". There has been some controversy among writers on the question as to who was responsible for this act of parādy. Writers like Shangoonni Menon and Nigamiah find the hidden hand of Dalava in this tragic episode while others like K. P. Padmanabha Menon and T. K. Velu Pillai absolve him of all responsibility. Those who hold the latter view point out that the Dalava had left Alleppey for Quilon several days prior to the incident and that the officers and followers left by him on the spot were the real culprits.

ABSORPTION OF PANTALAM

An important event connected with the history of the District in the early part of the 19th century was the absorption of the small principality of Pantalām into the State of Travancore. The event took place in 996 K. E. (1820 A.D) during the reign of Rani Parvathi Bai (1815-1829). It may be relevant in this context to enquire into the origin and early history of the Pantalām family. The Pantalām Rajas trace their descent from the Pandyan kings of Madurai who had territories on either side of the Ghats. Their original family seems to have been known as the Chempazhanthur Swarupam. The exact age of the immigration of the Pantalām family into Kerala is not known. According to Shangoonny Menon the event must have taken place about 79 K. E. (904 A.D), though there is no positive evidence in support of this view. The ancestors of the Pantalām family are said to have migrated from Madurai and set up residence at such places as Tenkasi, Achencoll, Shencottai etc. and eventually come to Travancore at the invitation of the Venad ruler. According to one version they acquired territories in Travancore during the reign of Udaya Marthanda Varma (1175-95). The Pantalām chiefs were held in high esteem from very early days because of their association with the holy shrine of the Sastha at Sabarimala. They maintain the most cordial relations with the rulers of Travancore and their co-operation was of great help to Marthanda Varma in subjugating the principality of Kayamkulam. Though several areas in the vicinity of Pantalām were annexed to Travancore by Ramayyan Dalava during his campaigns in the north the principality of Pantalām was spared in recognition of the services rendered to Travancore by that family. During the period of Tipu's invasion of Travancore the Dharma Raja called upon the Pantalām chief to contribute a share of the expenses of the war and the chief responded by borrowing Rs. 2,20,000 charging the debt on the tracts owned by

him. In 969 K.E. (1833-34) the lands with all the revenues were hypothecated to Travancore. The Pantalam Raja, however, retained possession of the territories on condition that he would pay into the Travancore Exchequer every year a sum of Rs. 50,000 by way of interest and instalment of the principal, but he failed to make regular payments of the dues. With a view to collecting the arrears which accrued Velu Thampi Dalava ordered the collection of the forest produce and other items of revenue in the Pantalam territory by contractors duly appointed by Travancore. In spite of this measure the debt still remained undischarged. It was under such circumstance that the Travancore Government took over all the Pantalam possessions in 936 K. E. (1820-21). The Pantalam Raja accepted pensions for himself and other members of his family.

PROGRESS IN THE 19th CENTURY

In the 19th century the Alleppey District made progress in the administrative and economic spheres. When the judicial system of Travancore was reorganised by Col. Munro (1811-14) one of the five Subordinate Courts opened in the State was located at Mavelikara. Education also made considerable progress in the District thanks to the active interest taken by the Government and private agencies. Alleppey and Mavelikara were among the earliest centres to be benefited by the educational activities of the C. M. S. mission. Rani Parvathi Bai gave permission to the C.M.S. in 1816 to build a Church at Alleppey and the timber required for the purpose was also granted by her to the Mission free of cost. Rev. T. Nortoni its Chaplain, took keen interest in educational activities. A School for Girls seems to have been set up by the Mission at Alleppey even before 1825. Almost at the same time Mrs. Peet of C. M. S., set up a Girls School at Mavelikara. During the period following the establishment of the Government English School at Trivandrum in 1834 English Schools were opened at Kayamkulam and Alleppey in this District. The distinction of having the first Post office in the erstwhile State of Travancore also goes to this District. It was set up in Alleppey town in 1857. The first modern factory for the manufacture of coir mats and mattings was established at Alleppey in 1859 by an American, Mr. James Darragh. This pioneering venture was to make Alleppey before long the centre of the coir industry in Kerala. The Government Hospital at Alleppey was established in 1866-67. In 1894 when the Town Improvement and Conservancy Regulation was passed in Travancore State, a Town Improvement Committee was set up at Alleppey and this developed later into the Alleppey Municipality.

EARLY POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN ALLEPPEY

The Alleppey District has played an impressive role in the political and social reform movements of modern Kerala. The Indian National Congress which was founded in 1885 had its ardent votaries in the District from early days. Of the early leaders of the Congress from this District the names of George Joseph, Kuruvilla Mathew and T.K. Madhavan deserve special mention. T.K. Madhavan is remembered for his service in the cause of the abolition of untouchability in Kerala. A dynamic leader endowed with a passion for social justice and equality; Madhavan was attracted towards the Congress and the ideals it championed under Gandhiji's leadership. The campaign for eradication of untouchability was organised effectively in Kerala under his leadership much earlier than it was done in any other part of India. Madhavan bestowed his attention first on getting the approach roads to temples opened to the *Avarnas* or untouchables. It was the strange custom in those days to deny the right of passage through such roads to the members of the lower castes among the Hindus, though non-Hindus like Christians and Muslims were not subjected to this social disability. Madhavan considered his campaign for securing the right of passage through the approach roads to temples as an inevitable prelude to the bigger campaign for temple entry itself. In 1922 he met Mahatma Gandhi at Tirunelveli and obtained from him a message in favour of temple entry. As a result of his tireless efforts an atmosphere was created in Travancore and other parts of Kerala in favour of temple entry. In 1923 he attended the Coconada Congress as a delegate from Kerala. It may be mentioned in this connection that Sardar K. M. Panikkar, a distinguished son of this District and K. P. Kesava Menon from Calicut also attended the Cocondaa Congress as delegates. At the Congress T. K. Madhavan established personal contacts with such leaders as Gandhiji, Maulana Muhammad Ali, C. R. Das, C. Rajagopalachari, etc. and enlisted their support in his campaign for Harijan uplift. The Subjects Committee of the Coconada Congress adopted a resolution calling upon Congress workers in all parts of India to resort to constructive action for the eradication of untouchability. In pursuance of this resolution the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee met at Ernakulam and appointed a Committee to campaign for the abolition of untouchability. K. Kelappan was its Convener and T. K. Madhavan one of its prominent members. The famous Vaikam Satyagraha (1924) of which T. K. Madhavan was the leading light was the immediate

offshoot of the Ernakulam decision.¹ Madhavan was arrested for active participation in the Vaikom Satyagraha but he was later released. He attended the Belgaum Congress in 1924 and won the support of the all India Congress leaders for the Vaikom Satyagraha. In March 1925 Mahatma Gandhi himself visited Vaikom and expressed his solidarity with the Satyagrahis. The Vaikom Satyagraha which dragged on for 20 months ended in 1925 and the approach roads to the temple were formally opened to Hindus of all castes. Nevertheless, similar roads in other parts of Travancore were still opened to Hindus of the lower castes. Therefore the movement for getting those roads also opened to all Hindus irrespective of caste continued in select centres under Madhavan's leadership. The Ambalapuzha temple in this District was one of the centres where the agitation was carried on. By 1928 the approach roads to all temples in Travancore were thrown open to Hindus of all castes. This was a great victory for the cause of eradication of untouchability and a reward for Madhavan's efforts. It may also be mentioned here that T. K. Madhavan was a fearless journalist and that he campaigned vigorously for the cause of temple entry through the columns of his journal *Desabhimani*. He was also a member of the Travancore Legislature (Prajha Sabha) and even as early as 1094 K. E. (1919) and 1095 K. E. (1920) he raised the issue of temple entry on the floor of the house, though the Dewan President did not permit any discussion on the subject. Apart from the movement for eradication of untouchability T. K. Madhavan was also associated with the movement for prohibition, but in view of the opposition of the Government and vested interests it did not score any immediate triumph. The death of T. K. Madhavan in 1930 was a tragic loss to the national movement in Kerala.

Another prominent leader from this District who played an important part in political and social reform movements was P. K. Narayana Pillai who is known to the world of letters as 'Sahitya Panchananan' and who later became a Judge of the Travancore High Court. In 1929 he was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the State People's Conference held at Trivandrum under the presidentship of Sir M. Visweswarayya. Delegates from Cochin, Mysore, Hyderabad and Pudukotta attended the conference which

¹ The subject will be dealt with in details in the Kottayam District Gazetteer

discussed matters of common interest to the princely States and passed a few resolutions on the subject of responsible government in the States. P. K. Narayana Pillai was also associated with the movement for the eradication of untouchability in Travancore.

The Alleppey District was powerfully affected by the "Nivarthana" agitation which swept over Travancore in the early thirties.¹ P. K. Kunju who hails from this District was one of the prominent leaders of the agitation.

STRUGGLE FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

With the formation of the Travancore State Congress in 1938, political activities received a new impetus in this District as elsewhere in Travancore State. The year 1938 witnessed the beginning of the movement for responsible government under the auspices of the Travancore State Congress. The Government of the State resorted to all kinds of repressive measures to put down the agitation. Ban was imposed on public meetings and demonstrations all over Travancore. Immediately after the expiry of the ban the Travancore State Congress Committee convened its first meeting at Chengannur. Even before the meeting formally commenced a set of hired hooligans had taken possession of the platform. They abused the State Congress leaders present at the meeting in the most vulgar language and even manhandled some of them. The people who had assembled at the meeting place were infuriated by the inaction of the Police force and they started pelting stones at the latter. The police resorted to a lathi charge to disperse the meeting and a regular street fight then ensued between the police and the enraged mob. Similar situations arose in other parts of Travancore as well. The Government promptly reimposed the ban on meetings and demonstrations with a view to arresting the tempo of the agitation. Moreover, the Travancore State Congress was declared an illegal organisation. These measures however served only to keep alive the tempo of the agitation. In August 1938 widespread demonstrations and meetings were organised in all parts of Travancore in order to protest against the repressive policies of the Government. Prominent leaders of the State Congress like Pattom Thanu Pillai and T. M. Varghese were arrested at Trivandrum.

1 See Quilon District Gazetteer, pp. 150—56

2 See Trivandrum District Gazetteer, 0/236

Among the main centres of the agitation were Alleppey and Shertallai where the working class bore the brunt of the repression at the hands of the police. The general strike which took place in Alleppey, "the first political strike in Kerala," was a resounding success. The boatmen who struck work completely paralysed public life in this District where rivers and backwaters were the chief means of communication. The Government found it difficult to rush police forces to the trouble spots and deal effectively with the agitation. The striking workers swore that they would not go back to work until responsible government was achieved. On October 24 a mammoth meeting and demonstration took place at Alleppey and the police fired at the workers who were marching through the streets. In November the State Government lifted the ban on the Congress organisation as well as on public meetings and released the Congress leaders from prison. Negotiations were started for effecting a political truce. At this stage there was an open rift between the extremist and moderate elements in the Travancore State Congress. The former wanted the Congress leadership to adopt an uncompromising attitude and carry on an indefinite struggle for the achievement of responsible government. The rift in the Congress became wider in 1946 when the Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer announced his proposal for constitutional reform which came to be popularly known as "the American Model." The scheme which provided for an irremovable executive was opposed by the State Congress Working Committee but some negotiations were held with the Government on the subject of constitutional reform in Travancore. The policies of the Congress leadership were strongly opposed by the extremists under the leadership of the Communist party.

RISE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

It may be pertinent in this connection to refer to the origin and growth of the Communist party in the Alleppey District. Alleppey may rightly be called the cradle of the Communist movement in Travancore. The Youth League which was founded in 1931 had on its rolls several young men who believed in the Communist ideology. They functioned as an extremist section in the Travancore State Congress, when the latter organisation came into existence in 1938. The Alleppey District with its large labour force concentrated in the coastal belt comprised of the Ambalapuzh and Shertallai Taluks turned out to be the stronghold of the Communist party. The

Communists campaigned actively among the *coir* workers, fishermen, oil workers, toddy tappers, beedi-workers and agricultural labourers in the area and before long more than 20,000 labourers were effectively organised in about a dozen trade unions under their leadership. A potent cause of the popularity of the Communist party among the agrarian population of the District was the growing discontent among agricultural labourers who were freely oppressed by the landed aristocracy. This was particularly so in the Shertallai Taluk where all the land was monopolised by a few big *janmies* and the vast majority of the *kudiyans* or tenants had practically no rights. As the workers and peasants organised themselves under Communist leadership and resorted to collective bargaining to achieve their ends, the employers and the landlords initiated a series of repressive measures such as reduction in wages, eviction from land etc. Consequently, there was mounting tension between the labourers and tenants on the one side and the employers and landlords on the other. The Government sent strong contingents of the armed police force to Shertallai and other parts of the coastal area in order to suppress the Communist movement. There were widespread complaints that the police had been siding with the landlords and employers and harassing the labourers and the peasants. It was at this time that Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer announced his scheme of constitutional reform based on the "American Model". The Communists who were opposed to the scheme decided on direct action to end Dewan's rule and achieve responsible Government without further delay. Fortunately for the Communist party, it had in this District a team of able leaders such as T. V. Thomas, R. Sugathan, P. T. Punnoose and M. N. Govindan Nair who could inspire confidence in the rank and file of the working class. When repressive measures were stepped up by the police the Communist party set up volunteer camps in different parts of the Ambalapuzha and Shertallai Taluks and imparted a kind of semi-military training to the workers as a measure of self-defence. As the situation became explosive the Government strengthened the police force in the District and conferred on them extraordinary powers to deal with problems of law and order. They also declared the Communist Party and all the labour unions functioning under their control in Shertallai and Ambalapuzha Taluks as unlawful organisations. The prominent leaders of the party and the office-bearers of the trade unions were soon arrested *en masse*. The police and the military now dominated the scene.

PUNNAPRA-VAYALAR EPISODE

The year 1946 witnessed the great Communist upheaval in the District. The village of Punnapra lying to the south of Alleppey town was one of the earliest scenes of the upheaval. A contingent of the police force which marched through the streets of Punnapra to intimidate the local population by a show of strength was held up by the militant workers and forced to retrace their steps. In the meantime there were clashes between the working class and the police in several parts of Shertallai and Ambalapuzha Taluks. In September 1946 a critical situation developed in Alleppey town where the labourers held large-scale demonstrations in defiance of the Government ban. On September 24, 1946 the workers of Alleppey embarked on an indefinite strike with the object of achieving not only the legitimate rights of their class but also the larger goal of responsible Government for the people of Travancore. On September 26, a huge *jatha* of the workers moved from Alleppey to Punnapra where the police force had mustered strong to disperse the Communist agitators by force. Similar worker's *jathas* moved to Punnapra from other directions as well. A pitched battle took place between the workers and the police at Punnapra. The police opened fire on the demonstrators and many were killed. The workers took possession of a large number of rifles from the policemen and resorted to counter-firing. The Police Inspector and some other military officers who were directing the police operations were killed on the spot. After an open encounter which lasted for more than an hour and a half the workers were forced to withdraw to places of safety in the neighbourhood.

The Punnapra episode sparked off a series of clashes between the police and the workers in other parts of the Ambalapuzha and Shertallai Taluks. The major scene of events now shifted from Punnapra to Vayalar (Shertallai Taluk). Several volunteer camps of the workers were functioning in this Taluk under the auspices of the Communist Party. They had made all preparations for a final show-down with the police. On September 26 the Travancore Government promulgated martial law in Alleppey and Shertallai and the Dean -Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer himself assumed supreme command of the police and military operations in the area. On the same day the armed police force stationed in the premises of the Traveller's Bungalow in Shertallai town moved against the camps organised by the Communist Party. Their main target was Vayalar

which was surrounded by water on three sides. The police party tried to land at Vayalar at mid-night but the workers resisted this attempt. Many of them crawled on their bellies and faced the police bullets with unflinching courage. The police opened fire on the island from all three sides with machine guns. The indiscriminate firing lasted for five hours. The workers who had been armed with bamboo spikes, stones etc. put on a brave fight but they could not hold on for long against the superior might of the police and the military. What took place at Vayalar on that day was a veritable massacre for which it is difficult to find a parallel in history. The exact number of persons killed or wounded in the holocaust is not known, but a rough estimate places the number of persons killed on the spot at 150 while many of the wounded died afterwards. On the same day the Vayalar incident took place the military opened fire at two other places also killing a total of 130 people, 120 at one place and 10 at the other. The tragic events of Punnappra and Vayalar came as a rude shock to public opinion in the State. It may be stated that the Travancore State Congress did not associate itself with the upheaval in Vayalar and Punnappra as it did not approve of methods of violence to achieve political objectives. Nevertheless, the Working Committee of the State Congress registered its strong protest against the repressive policies pursued by the Government in putting down the Communist uprising. Though the Communist movement was temporarily put down the sacrifices made by the workers did not go in vain in the long run. The epic struggle of the workers of Punnappra—Vayalar helped to hasten the end of the autocratic rule of the Dewan and the establishment of responsible Government in Travancore. It is perhaps not without significance that the Alleppey District came into existence as a separate administrative unit on August 1, 1957 during the period of the Communist Ministry in Kerala.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A brief survey of the contributions made by the District to the cultural heritage of Kerala may be attempted before concluding this Chapter. The contributions of the District to the growth of such arts as *Kathakali* and *Ottam Tullal* have been dealt with in Chapter III. In this section we shall deal only with the contributions in the field of literature. Reference has already been made to Saktibhadra, the author of the Sanskrit drama *Ascharya Ghudamani* and the 'Niranam Poets', the earliest of the scholars of repute associated with this District. In the medieval period the Chempazasseri Rajas

were great patrons of learning and letters. Puradam Tirunal Devanarayana was the patron of Melpattur Narayana Bhattathiri, the great Sanskrit scholar. In addition to *Devanarayana prasasti*, the latter wrote the famous *Prakriyasaruvaswa* under the patronage of Devanarayana. A successor of Puradam Tirunal is believed to have been the patron of the author of the celebrated works, *Utharachampuramayana* and *Navanidarasanam*¹. The *Nayanidarasanam* is replete with references to Ambalapuzha, Kumaranallur Bhagavati and Chempakasseri Raja. It also alludes to the construction of the new palace of the Chempakasseri Rajas at Kudamalur.

The *Hariyakshamasamarolsavam* (*Kandiyumattam Patapattu*) written by Cheppukad (Cheppad) Nilakantan about the latter half of the 18th century describes in detail the *Onathallu* festival of the Nairs. It alludes to the glory of Iravipattanam (Kayamkulam) and the large scale trade carried on at the place during the period. Another talented poet who lived in this District in the 18th century was Erattuku angara Rama Warriar, the author of the *Kiratham Attakatha* and *Nalacharitham Tiruvattirapattu*. Kunjan Nambiar, the immortal composer of *Tullal* works in Malayalam, who also lived in the latter half of the 18th century spent a great part of his life in the court of the Ambalapuzha Rajas. The songs of Nambiar are distinguished by the social satire they contain and their fine sense of humour. He was the earliest of the Malayalam poets who used poetry as an instrument of social change for his poems expose some of the glaring evils in contemporary Kerala society. Pantalām Subramonia Sastrikal (1785-1819) who was one of the *Asthana Panditas* of Karthika Tirunal Rama Varma (Dharma Raja) of Travancore was an authority on Grammar. He also composed some stray verses. Aripattu Kochupillai Warriar (1785-1839), the Sanskrit tutor of Swati Tirunal and the author of *Urvasiswayamvaram Kathukali* was another literary figure from this District during the period.

The literary contributions of some of the Rajas of Pantalām in the 19th century deserve special mention. The Pantalām family produced great Sanskrit scholars and patrons of letters and learning. Among the most prominent of the Rajas may be mentioned Raja Rama Varma (1815-1901), the author of the Sanskrit works *Krishna Lila*, *Dharmasastra Sataka* etc. and Kerala Varma, the author of

¹ According to Ullur S. Parameswara Iyer, the poet was a Nambudhiri from Kumaranellur, Kerala Sahitya Charitram. Vol III, p. 50

Banyasika Champu and *Rugmangada Charita*. Aripattu Kochugovida Warriar (1810-1855), Aripattu Rama Warriar (1818-1855), Oomman Philopose (1838-1886) and Archdeacon Koshi (1826-1900) were among the other literary figures who lived in the 19th century. Of the above Oomman Philopose was the Editor of the *Paschimataraka*, a paper started from Cochin and the latter was closely associated with the *Gnanikashepam* started by the C. M. S. from Kottayam. Kandathil Varghese Mappila (1858-1904) the founder of the *Malayala Manorama*, hailed from Niranam in this District. Writers like Mavelikara Puthenkottarathil Udayavarma Tampuran (1844-1932), Ennakkad Raja Raja Varma Tampuran (1853-1917), Pantalam Krishna Warriar (1859-1932) and Kaviyur Raman Nambiar (1869-1902) also deserve notice.

The founding of the journal *Kavana Kaumudi* (1904) by Kerala Varma (1879-1918) of Pantalam royal house marked the beginning of a new era in the evolution of the Malayalam poetry. The journal which was printed for long in the Suvarnaprabha Press, Kayamkulam was first published from Pantalam and it was exclusively meant for the encouragement of Malayalam poetry, Kerala Varma was himself a talented writer in Malayalam and Sanskrit. Pantalam Raghava Varma (1874-1940) was also another poet of repute. He has to his credit the *Matabhupalacharita* on Rajarshi Rama Varma of Cochin and *Krittika Bhana*. Mulur S. Padmanabha Panikkar (1862-1931), a close associate of Pantalam Kerala Varma, was a talented poet and an ardent social worker. Chuvakkara Unnikrishna Warriar (1865-1936) was a writer of repute who translated many *Champus* from Sanskrit into Malayalam. Mavelikara Udayavarma Tampuran (1869-1943) and his nephew M. Raja Raja Varma were also notable writers of the District. It is specially noteworthy that Kerala Varma Valla Koll Tampuran and his nephew A. R. Raja Raja Varma, the two immortal names in modern Malayalam language and literature belonged to Haripad royal house. The former translated into Malayalam Kalidasa's *Sakuntala*—an achievement, which won for him the title 'Kerala Kalidasa'. His *Mayura Sandesam* is one of the most exquisite poems in the language. A. R. Raja Raja Varma who is otherwise known as 'Kerala Panini' has written such works of outstanding literary merit as *Kerala Panintyam*, *Bhashobhushanam* and *Sahityasahyam*. His *Malaya Vilasam* heralded the dawn of a new era in modern Malayalam poetry. The author of *Chakki Chankaram*, one of the best satirical dramas produced in Malayalam, was written by Munshi Rama Kurup (1848-1897) who hailed from

Shertallai. Yet another literary luminary from this District was the famous literary critic P. K. Narayana Pillai who is known to the world of letters as Sahitya Panchananan. The criticisms that he wrote in western style on the works of such stalwarts as Cherusseri, Ezhuthachan, Unnayi Warriar and Kunjan Nambiar are learned studies on the subject.

The District has produced many scholars and writers of merit in recent times. One of the most distinguished of such scholars was the great historian Sardar K. M. Panikkar. He was a poet, a novelist and a prose writer of outstanding ability. His literary works in Malayalam include poems like *Premagiti*, *Balikamatam*, *Bhupasan-desam* etc., novels like *Kerala Simham*, *Kalyanamal* etc. and his own Autobiography entitled *Aimskatha*. Another scholar of repute was I.C. Chacko, the author of the famous *Panniya Pradyotam*. Takazhi Sivasankara Pillai who hails from this District is a reputed short-story writer and novelist in modern Malayalam. The short stories and novels written by him depict the life of the down-trodden. *The Rundu Edaugazh*, *Chemmin*, *Ouseppinte Makkal*, *Thottiyude Makan*, *Enipadikal* etc. are among the best known of his works. It was Takazhi's *Chemmin* that enabled Malayalam to enter the portals of world literature. Vennikulam Gopala Kurup, the poet, E. M. Kovur the novelist and short-story writer and N. P. Chellappan Nair, the satirist also deserve mention among the leading Malayalam writers of the present day from this District. A popular young poet who has gained much prominence in recent times is the famous composer of film songs Vayalar Rama Varma. *Ayishu Sarga Sangitam* etc. are among the best known of his works.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

TOTAL POPULATION ACCORDING TO SUB-DIVISIONS

According to the 1961 Census the total population of the Alleppey District is 1,811,252. Alleppey which ranks last in respect of area gets the fourth rank in respect of population among the Districts of Kerala, the proportion of the population of the District to the total population of the State being 10.72 per cent. The details of the distribution of population are given below:-

RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION, 1961

	Persons	Males	Females
Total	1,811,252	893,435	917,817
Rural	1,509,821	739,948	761,573
Urban	310,431	154,187	156,244

The Taluk-wise figures of the rural and urban population as per the 1961 Census with sex-wise details are also given below.

TALUK-WISE POPULATION FIGURES, 1961

Taluk		Persons	Males	Females
Shertallai	Total	311,527	154,115	157,412
	Rural	280,372	138,733	141,637
	Urban	31,155	15,382	15,773
Ambalapuzha	Total	270,037	134,573	135,464
	Rural	131,203	64,596	66,607
	Urban	138,834	69,977	68,857
Kuttanad (No urban area)	Rural	169,219	83,681	85,538
Tiruvalla	Total	305,625	150,556	155,069
	Rural	281,383	138,806	142,577
	Urban	24,242	11,750	12,492
Chengannur	Total	198,846	97,828	101,018
	Rural	175,559	86,978	89,591
	Urban	22,277	10,850	11,427

	Total	284,397	139,440	144,957
Karthikapally	Rural	219,448	107,442	112,006
	Urban	64,949	31,998	32,915
	Total	271,601	133,242	138,359
Mavelikara	Rural	242,627	119,012	123,615
	Urban	28,974	14,230	14,744

DENSITY OF POPULATION

According to the Census of 1961 the density of population in Kerala per sq. mile comes to 1,127 persons. The density in Alleppey District is 2,558 persons per sq. mile. Alleppey gets the first rank among the Districts of Kerala in this regard. The density of population in the rural areas is 2,292 and in the urban areas 5,831. Considered Taluk-wise, Ambalapuzha Taluk leads the Alleppey District with 3,914 persons, while Kuttanad Taluk comes last with 1,648 persons per sq. mile. Karthikapally Taluk leads the rural areas with 2,813 persons, while Kuttanad Taluk which is entirely rural comes last with only 1,648 persons per sq. mile. In the urban areas Ambalapuzha Taluk leads with 7,687 persons while Tiruvalla Taluk comes last with 4,337 persons per sq. mile. The following table gives the Taluk-wise details of the density of population in Alleppey District from 1921 to 1961.

VARIATION OF DENSITY 1921-61

District/Taluk	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961
Alleppey District	1,285	1,597	1,799	2,148	2,558
Ambalapuzha Taluk	1,684	2,167	2,649	3,202	3,914
Chengannur „	1,383	1,705	1,865	2,285	2,559
Karthikapally „	1,646	1,996	2,145	2,577	3,139
Kuttanad „	672	879	1,083	1,323	1,648
Mavelikara „	1,265	1,520	1,691	2,023	2,436
Shertallai „	1,305	1,653	1,855	2,060	2,518
Tiruvalla „	1,243	1,533	1,676	2,054	2,300

SEX RATIO

The percentage of females to the total population in the District is higher than the percentage of males. There are 1,027 females to every thousand males in the population. This is slightly higher than the all-Kerala figure of 1,022 females per thousand males. It may be mentioned here that the all India ratio is 941 females for every thousand males. The following table shows the changes in the proportion of sexes (females per 100 males) in the District from 1901 to 1961.

PROPORTION OF SEXES
(females per 1000 males)

Year	Total	Rural	Urban
1901	986	988	958
1911	987	990	934
1921	979	984	931
1931	993	1,000	929
1941	1,000	1,006	953
1951	1,019	1,025	985
1961	1,027	1,030	1,013

In the matter of sex-ratio Karthikapally Taluk stands first in the Alleppey District with 1,040 while Ambalapuzha Taluk comes last with 1,007. In the rural areas also Karthikapally Taluk stands first with 1,042. Shertallai Taluk comes last in the rural areas with 1,021. Tiruvalla Taluk leads the urban areas with 1,068, while Ambalapuzha Taluk comes last with 984.

GROWTH OF POPULATION AND CONNECTED PROBLEMS

A study of the population figures since the Census of 1901 shows that the population of the Alleppey District has been increasing decade after decade. During the period 1901-61 there has been a total increase of 170.99 per cent in the population of the District, the percentage increase during the decade 1951-61 alone being 19.06. A statement showing the percentage variation of population in each decade during 1901-61 is given below.

PERCENTAGE VARIATION OF POPULATION 1901-61

Decade	Total	Rural	Urban
1901-61	170.99	135.34	912.40
1901-11	14.79	14.12	28.70
1911-21	18.55	12.89	122.99
1921-31	24.32	22.94	37.13
1931-41	12.67	12.06	17.86
1941-51	19.41	14.80	56.12
1951-61	19.06	15.51	39.80

It will be clear from the foregoing figures that there has been a steady increase in population since the turn of the century. The causes of the growth of population in this District are the same as they are in other parts of India. The high population growth is to a large extent due to the increase in the expectation of life at birth

In the country as a whole, The expectation of life at birth in India in 1951 was estimated at 32.45 for males and 31.66 for females and it has been estimated at little more than 45 in 1961. The average expectation of life at birth in India as a whole has increased by more than a year every year. This increase is due to various reasons like better control of epidemics, massive B. C. G. campaign against tuberculosis, improvement in public health and sanitation etc. It is therefore not surprising that there has been a decrease in death rate and corresponding growth in population all over the country. Immigration does not seem to have played any appreciable role in the growth of population in the District. It may also be stated that though there might have been some isolated cases of emigration of families from the District to places outside in search of better means of livelihood, no instance of organised emigration has come to notice.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BETWEEN RURAL and URBAN AREAS.

The bulk of the population of the District is rural. Out of a total population of 1,811,252 persons in 1961 only 310,431 live in urban areas. The urban area in this District comprises of the five municipal towns of Shertallai, Alleppey, Kayamkulam, Mavelikara and Tiruvalla and the three non-municipal towns of Haripad, Pantalam and Chengannur. The total population (sex-wise) of these towns is given below.

URBAN POPULATION, 1961

Town	Total	Males	Females
Shertallai	31,155	15,382	15,773
Alleppey	133,834	69,977	68,857
Haripad	20,378	9,872	10,506
Kayamkulam	44,571	22,126	22,445
Pantalam	10,000	5,069	4,931
Mavelikara	18,974	9,161	9,813
Chengannur	22,277	10,850	11,427
Tiruvalla	24,242	11,750	12,492

It is a feature of the growth of population in Kerala that the urban population has also been increasing decade after decade along with the total population. The percentage increase in urban population in the Alleppey District during the period 1901 to 1961 is 912.40. The increase during the one decade 1951—61 alone comes to 39.80 per cent. This variation is quite normal when one

considers the fact that the percentage increase in urban population in the State as a whole during the decade was 39.89. It may however be noted that whereas there were nine towns in the District in the Census of 1951, the number had come down to eight in 1961. This was due to the change in the concept of the town at the Census of 1961. In 1951 all municipal towns and conservancy towns in the District were treated as towns. In 1961, in addition to municipal towns, cantonments and civil lines, only those places which had a minimum population of five thousand persons and a density of not less than thousand persons per sq. mile with at least 75 per cent male population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits were treated as towns.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ON THE BASIS OF MOTHER TONGUE

Malayalam is the language spoken by the vast majority (98%) of the people in the District. Among the minority languages Tamil and Konkani deserve special mention. Tamil is spoken mainly by the Tamil Brahmins and immigrants from the Tamil areas while Konkani is spoken by the Gowda Saraswaths. The following statement furnishes the ten important languages of the District according to the Census of 1961.

Mother Tongue	Total Speakers
Malayalam	1,779,531
Tamil	14,415
Konkani	12,191
Telugu	790
Hindi	736
Gujarathi	619
Englilh	552
Kudubi	516
Urdu	467
Tulu	423

BIRTH PLACE

According to the 1961 Census 99.6 per cent of the total population of this District were born within the State. Persons belonging to all the States of India except Manipur, Tripura, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, North East Frontier Agency and Nagaland live in the District. The foreign nationals were born in Aden, Afghanistan, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany (West), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy,

Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Malaya and British Borneo, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Tanganyika, Union of South Africa, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and United States of America. The following statement gives the number of persons born within and outside the District.

PLACE OF BIRTH				
Place of birth		Total	Rural	Urban
I	Within the State of enumeration			
a)	Born within the District	1,721,168	1,437,817	283,351
b)	Born in other districts of the State	83,201	59,690	23,511
II	States in India beyond the State of enumeration	4,859	1,883	2,976
III	Born in countries in Asia beyond India (including U. S. S. R)	905	600	305
IV	Countries in Europe (excluding U.S.S.R)	189	17	172
V	Countries in Africa	74	56	18
VI	Countries in North America and South America	18	8	10
VII	Countries in Oceania	3	2	1
VIII	Born at sea	2	2	...
IX	Unclassifiable	833	746	87

DIFFERENCES IN DIALECT

Kerala is broadly divided into three regional dialects, the southern dialect, the middle dialect and the northern dialect. The Alleppey District falls within the area where the middle dialect is in vogue. The distinguishing feature of the middle dialect is that it contains a profuse admixture of Sanskrit words. As in the case of other languages there are differences between the colloquial language spoken by certain classes of people in the District and the written dialect in Malayalam. Moreover, a distinction between the upper class dialect and lower class dialect is also possible. The Scheduled Castes who have lived for centuries in illiteracy and social isolation speak an unrefined form of Malayalam which reveals certain

peculiarities in pronunciation and syntax. The rank and file of the Gowda Saraswaths and the Kudumis also speak Malayalam with a peculiar accent. However, the differences in dialects spoken by different classes are narrowing down in recent years owing to the growth of communication and the spread of education.

SCRIPTS USED

The modern Malayalam script is in vogue all over Kerala. It has developed out of the *Grantha* script or *Arya Ezhuthu* which was popularised by Thunchathu Ezhuthachan who lived in the latter half of the 16th or the first half of the 17th century, A.D. The monopoly of the Brahmins in using *Grantha* collapsed in course of time when the Nairs (17th century) Ezhavas (18th century) and Muslims (19th century) made abundant use of it. It may be pointed out that the oldest alphabet current in Kerala was *Vattezhuthu*, otherwise called *Nanammonum*, which was in vogue even before the 8th century A.D. The increasing popularity of the *Grantha* script resulted in the decline of *Vattezhuthu*.

RELIGION AND CASTE

The most important religious communities of the District are the Hindus, the Christians and the Muslims. According to the Census of 1961, out of a total population of 1,811,252 in Alleppey the Hindus number 1,184,936 (681,168 males and 603,768 females), the Christians 515,400 (256,311 males and 259,089 females) and the Muslims 110,280 (55,631 males and 54,649 females). The above figures represent 65.42 percentage of the total population in the case of the Hindus, 28.45 percentage in the case of Christians and 6.09 percentage in the case of the Muslims. Apart from the major communities mentioned above there are also 30 Buddhists, 101 Jains, 22 Sikhs and 479 other religionists in this District. The details of the distribution of the population according to religion are given in the following table.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY RELIGION 1961

Religion	Number			Percentage distribution		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
All religions	1 811,252	1,500,821	310,431	100.00	100.00	100.00
Hindus	1 184,936	1,001,652	183,284	65.42	66.74	59.04
Christians	515,400	435,117	80,283	28.45	28.99	25.86

Muslims	110,280	63,571	46,709	6.09	4.24	15.05
Buddhists	30	3	27	N	N	0.01
Jains	101	..	101	0.01	..	0.03
Sikhs	26	17	9	N	N	0.01
Others	479	461	18	0.03	0.03	N
HINDUS						

The Hindu community in this District, as elsewhere in the country, is organised on the basis of the caste system. Castewise statistics of population have not been collected since the Census of 1941 and hence have no reliable data to assess the relative strength of the different castes. The *Census Report of 1941* is the latest official document which gives us an insight into caste structure and the relative strength of the various castes in the District. The Brahmins who are at the apex of the caste hierarchy form only a small minority of the Hindu population. They come under two broad divisions — indigenous and non-indigenous. The most important of the indigenous Brahmins are the Nambuthiris and the Pottis. The Nambuthiris number only a few hundreds and they live mainly in the Tiruvalla, Chengannur and Karthikapally Taluks. The Tamil Brahmins and the Gowda Saraswaths (Konkanis) are the chief sects among the *Paradesi* or non-indigenous Brahmins. While the former may be seen in all the Taluks, the latter are to be seen mainly in the Shertallai and Ambalapuzha Taluks and to some extent in Karthikapally too. The Gowda Saraswaths are immigrants from Goa, the southernmost part of Konkan and they came to Kerala in the wake of the Portuguese occupation of Goa. They are essentially a mercantile community. Vaishnavites in religious matters. Their spiritual head is the Swamiyar of the Kasi Mutt Samsthan. The Pottis belong to three classes. The first class comprises the descendants of the earliest settlers. The Sthanathil Pottis and the Pathillathil Pottis come under this division. Under the second class come the later immigrants from the Karnataka region, who become assimilated into the general body of the Nambuthiris in manners and customs. The Tiruvalla Desis belong to this category. They are so called because their first home in Travancore was Tiruvalla. The *Gramams* of Chengannur and Venmani are the two important centres of the Tiruvalla Desis. The Mampalli Pandarathil, otherwise known as the Vanchipuzha Chief, is the head of the latter. The third class of Pottis are the immigrants from South Canara and they are called Embrans.

The Kshatriyas, though numerically small, form an important caste group in the District. They include the Koil Tampurans, the

Rajas or Tampurans, the Tampans and the Tirumulpads. The Koil Tampueans form a small community descended from the immigrant Kshatriya families from certain parts of North Kerala. There are ten such families of Koil Tampurans in erstwhile Travancore, viz., those of Kilimanur, Changanacherry, Anantapuram, Pallam, Chemprol, Cherukol, Gramam, Pallyakkara, Karaima and Vatakkematam. Of these the Kilimanur family (Trivandrum District) from Thattari Kovilakam was the earliest to come. Next came the Changanacherry stock descended from a branch of the Alikkodu family comprising of persons who migrated from Malabar during the period of Tipu's invasion. The Dharma Raja of Travancore received them hospitably and gave them *Nirazhi Kottaram* (Palace) of the Tekkumkur Rajas whose territories had been annexed to Travancore. As the family increased in numbers, they found it inconvenient to live under the same roof. One of the ladies, probably the eldest, remained at Changanacherry along with the youngest, while the others migrated to convenient localities nearby and, settled down at Pallam (Kottayam), Pallyakkara (Tiruvalla Taluk) and Gramam (Mavelikara Taluk). Later on two more branches left Changanacherry and fixed their residences at Anantapuram (Karthikapally Taluk) and Chemprol (Karthikapally Taluk). About 1856 A. D. three more families, viz., those of Cherukol, Karaima and Vatakkematam immigrated from the Beypore branch in North Malabar. The Koil Tampurans are related to one another by blood and observe birth and death pollutions. They are an exogamous community. The males marry into the families of Rajas or take Nair wives, while the females are married to Nambuthiri Brahmins. There has, however, been a recent move to give their girls in marriage to the Rajas as well. They have the usual Brahmanical *Samskaras*. They follow the matrilineal law of inheritance.

The Rajas belong to nine families in erstwhile Travancore, each known by the locality in which they reside, viz., Pantalam, Punjar, Mavelikara, Ennakkad, Prayikkara, Tiruvuvalla, Karthikapally, Aranmula and Mariapally. Of these all except Punjar and Mariapally are in the District. The immigration of the Pantalams and the Punjar Rajas who are representatives of the dynasty of Pandyan Kings took place more than eight hundred years ago. The Punjar chief who was one of the most important noblemen in Travancore owned extensive tracts of land known as the Punjar *Edavaka*. The original home of the remaining seven families was Kolathunad

in North Malabar. Their immigration into Travancore took place during the period of the invasion of Malabar by Tipu Sultan. The first group came from the Putiya Pally Kovilakam and settled down at Mavelikkara. It was followed by the Pally Kovilakam, the Chenga Kovilakam and the Cheriya Kovilakam families. The last named family settled down at Aranmula and the other two at Tiruvalla, Karthikapally and Mariapally. In course of time the main stock at Mavelikara got split up into branches—one going to Ennakkad and another to Prayikkara. Adoptions to the Travancore ruling family were being made from Mavelikara and Ennakkad. The Rajas, like the Koi Tamपुरans, have the prescribed Kshatriya *Samskaras*. Priestly functions are performed by the Nambuthiris. As regards marriage, the bride groom is selected from among Koi Tamपुरans. The *Kanyakadanam* or the giving away of the bride is performed by the girl's uncle or brother. The males marry Kshatriya, Nair or Samantha Women.

The word Tampian is a contraction of Tampuran. At one time the Tampians were rulers of small principalities. Allied to them are the Tirunulpads. The manners and customs of the Tampians and Tirunulpads are like those of the other Malabar Kshatriyas. They are invested with the sacred thread at the age of sixteen. The Nambuthiri is the family priest.

The Ambalavasis also form a small proportion of the Hindu population of the District. They include the Warners, the Pushpakans, the Poduvals etc. These communities are found mainly in the Karthikapally and Ambalapuzha Taluks. They are concerned with the performance of some function or other connected with temples. It is, however, a feature of these communities that several among them have distinguished themselves in arts and letters.

The Nairs and Ezhavas form the most influential and numerous of the Hindu castes in the District. In the absence of up-to-date statistics to show their relative numerical strength, the distribution of population between Nairs and Ezhavas in the Census of 1941 in the then Taluks of Karthikapally, Mavelikara, Tiruvalla, Alleppey and Shertallai which form part of the erstwhile Central Division of Travancore State is given below,

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BETWEEN NAIRS AND EZHAVAS, 1941

Taluk	Nairs	Ezhavas
Karthikapally	34,476	59,997
Mavelikara	58,542	42,060

Tiruvalla	81,301	44,757
Ambalapuzha	37,012	78,120
Shertattilai	28,675	94,437

The Nairs were originally a military class but with the British conquest and occupation of the country, they gave up their traditional occupation of fighting and took to agriculture government service and the learned professions and callings. The Ezhavas were largely engaged in the cultivation of coconut pila and in the industries connected with its products, Eg:- toddy-tapping, manufacture of coir fibre etc. Many among them were agriculturists while a few earned their livelihood by other forms of manual labour such as rowing of country boats. The Ezhavas have distinguished themselves in the fields of Ayurveda and Astrology. In recent years many of them have given up the traditional occupation of toddy-tapping and taken to new pursuits.

Next to the Nairs and the Ezhavas, the Kammalas form another important section of the Hindu community. There are various subdivisions among them such as *Asaris*, *Kallasaris*, *Kollans*, *Tattan*, *Moosaris* etc. The Kammalas, like Nairs and Ezhavas, may be seen in all Taluks of the District.

The Reddiers form a typical non-Brahmin sect among the Hindus in Alleppey town. They are descended from an agricultural community which came to Travancore from the Tamil Districts of Madurai and Tirunelveli. Their chief occupation is now trade. They are Vaishnavites in religion and follow the *Makkathayam* law.

The Vellalas also form another small non-Brahmin sect. They are divided into two sections; *Soiva Vellalas* and *Nanjanad Vellalas*. They are supposed to be immigrants from the Tamil country. Originally *Makkathayis*, they adopted the *Marumakkathayam* law after coming to Kerala, but their law of inheritance has since been changed by legislation. Their main occupation is agriculture; but they follow other vocations as well. The mother tongue of the Vellalas is Tamil.

The Kudumis who are Konkani Sadras may be found in Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Kurthikapally Taluks. They are also known as Muppans in some places. Like the Gowda Saraswaths, they are also Vaishnavites by religion though they have accepted Bhagavathi also as their tutelary deity. The Kudumis are said to

have immigrated into Kerala from Goa along with the Gowda Saraswaths. They are educationally backward. Manual labour is their chief source of livelihood.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND TRIBES

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes form an integral part of the Hindu Community. According to the Census of 1961, there are 166,667 (83,348 males and 83,319 females) Scheduled Castes in this District. Of these 152,204 (76,015 males and 76,189 females) live in rural areas and 14,463 (7,333 males and 7,130 females) in urban areas. The Scheduled Tribes, however, form only a very insignificant proportion of the population of the District. They number only 584 (300 males and 284 females) of whom 387 (196 males and 191 females) in urban areas. While the Scheduled Castes are seen in all the Taluks, the Scheduled Tribes are seen mainly in Shertallai and Tiruvalla Taluks. A Taluk-wise statement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the District is given below.

TALUK-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES—1961

District/Taluk		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Alleppey	Total	166,667	83,348	83,319	584	300	284
	Rural	152,204	76,015	76,189	387	196	191
	Urban	14,463	7,333	7,130	197	104	93
Shertallai	Total	27,070	13,440	13,636	177	98	79
	Rural	25,981	12,888	13,100	177	98	79
	Urban	1,089	559	530	...	...	...
Ambalapuzha	Total	9,053	4,523	4,540	...	...	...
	Rural	6,353	3,141	3,212	...	...	...
	Urban	2,710	1,352	1,328	...	...	...
Kuttanad	Rural	16,564	8,038	8,526	19	11	8
Tiruvalla	Total	26,540	13,467	13,073	307	151	156
	Rural	25,216	12,774	12,442	110	47	63
	Urban	1,324	693	631	197	104	93
Chengannur	Total	25,954	13,008	12,946	21	10	11
	Rural	23,996	12,043	11,953	21	10	11
	Urban	1,958	965	993	—	...	...

Karthikapally Total	22,094	11,082	11,012	31	17	14
Rural	17,744	8,929	8,815	31	17	14
Urban	4,350	2,153	2,197	...	...	...
Mavelikara Total	39,382	19,790	19,592	29	13	16
Rural	36,350	18,209	18,141	29	13	16
Urban	3,032	1,581	1,451	...	..	...

HINDU RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

The religious beliefs and practices of the Hindus of the District are not different from what they are in other parts of the State. They are the result of a gradual process of assimilation of Aryan ideas from the north and Dravidian ideas from the south. The early Aryan immigrants assimilated the practices of the native people and accommodated them within their own religion with a view to achieving social cohesion. Some of the typical non-Aryan practices like Naga worship and ancestor worship became part of Hindu religious faith in this way. Special mention may be made in this connection of the Naga worship which is highly popular in this District. There are two important Naga shrines, one at Vettikode in Mavelikara Taluk and the other at Mannarsala in Karthikapally Taluk. Both these shrines attract large numbers of Hindu pilgrims from all parts of the District and outside, particularly on *Ayilyam* day in the months of Kanni. (September—October and Thulam (October—November) respectively. Apart from these Naga shrines, the *Sarpakavu* or Serpent grove was at one time an essential adjunct of every Nambuthiri house. But the number of such *Kavus* has diminished considerably in recent times in the wake of increasing urbanisation. In addition to serpent worship ancestor worship is also popular among the Hindus. Deceased ancestors are looked upon as benefactors of the *Taravad* and they are worshipped with due rites and ceremonies. The *Vavu Bali* performed on New Moon days particularly on the New Moon day in Karkadakkam (July-August), is an important custom connected with ancestor worship.

The Hindus of the District worship all the Gods and Goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. Some of the major temples of Kerala dedicated to such deities as Vishnu, Siva, Bhagavati, Subramonia, Sastha etc. are located in this District. The main Siva temples are those of Kandivur, Tirukorattil, Tiruvizha, Chengannur and Kaviyur. It may however, be noted that though the Chengannur and Kaviyur temples have Siva as the main deities, the worship of

Bhagavati is more popular in the former and that of Hanuman in the latter. The Vishnu shrines of Alleppey District are more famous than the Siva shrines. It may not be wrong to assume that the Vaishnava cult was at one time more predominant in this District than in the neighbouring District of Kottayam wherein are located some of the most important Saivite shrines of Kerala. Among the celebrated Vaishnava shrines of the District may be mentioned those of Tiruchittat, Tirupulivur, Tirunarayana and Tiruvannandur. According to tradition these four shrines were founded by the first four Pandava brothers, Dharmayudha, Bhima, Arjuna and Nakula.¹ The Vishnu temples in these four places are held sacred by the Vaishnavas and they have attracted pilgrims from all parts of the State and outside from very early days. There are also other notable Vaishnava temples such as the Krishnan temple, Ambalapuzha, Sri Vallabha temple, Tiruvalla, Sri Krishna temple, Nangiarikulangara, Sri Krishna temple, Krishnapuram, Krishna temple, Mavelikara etc. The Narayana temple at Chathankulangara near Chengannur is also dedicated to Vishnu in another of his incarnations. The Gowda Saraswathis who are Vaishnavites in religious faith have their own temples dedicated to Vishnu at Alleppey, Shertallai, Turavur, Purakkad and Kayamkulam. The more important Bhagavati temples of the District are located at such places as Shertallai, Kanichukulangara, Kidanganparambu, Chettikulangara, Bheranikavu, Vettikulangara, Kuttanperur, Papayankavu, Nilamperur, Mitrankari, Pattarambalam, Koipallikaranam and Mankombu. One of the most important temples of Kerala dedicated to Lord Subramonia is located at Haripad in this District. Temples dedicated to Sastha may be seen at Takazhi, Chengankari, Ramankari, Kumarankari (all in Kuttanad Taluk), Trikkunnapuzha (Karthikapilly Taluk), Panthalam and Kattuvally (Mavelikara Taluk). The Sastha is also accommodated as a minor deity in many temples. Ganapathi is worshipped as a minor deity in almost all temples while Hanuman is the more popular of the deities in the Kaviyur temple. There is a temple dedicated to Mariamman in Alleppey town and another dedicated to Dhanwantari at Prayikara. The Dhanwantari temple at Marothorvattam near Shertallai also deserves special notice. In Mannar (Chengannur Taluk) may be seen

¹ The fifth of the Pandava brothers, viz., Sahadeva is believed to have consecrated the idol of Krishna in the temple at Trikkodithanam in Kottayam District.

a large number of temples dedicated to almost all Gods and Goddesses of the Hindu pantheon. Here, there is a temple dedicated to Aditya, the Sun God and another dedicated to Saraswathi the Goddess of Learning-

TEMPLE RITES

The temples have an important place in the scheme of Hindu religious worship. The Hindu *Sastras* prescribe in detail the rules for the construction of shrines. The Kerala temple consists of various parts. The shrine or the *sanctum sanctorum* is called the *Srikovil*. It is square, oblong or circular in shape and consists of one or two storeys. The *Srikovil* is surrounded by five successive boundaries called the *Panchapraharas*. They are (1) the *Antarmandalam* immediately surrounding the *Srikovil*, (2) the *Antahara*, otherwise called *Nalambalam*, (3) the *Midhyahara* also called *Vilakkumadam* (4) the *Bahyara* representing the *Belivattam* in large temples and (5) the *Maryada* or outer wall. The following extract from the *Travancore Devaswam Manual* may be of interest in this connection. "The above divisions are important only for ceremonial purposes. The ordinary worshipper who visits a temple has, first of all, to pass through the main outer entrance or *Gopuram*. This may consist of an ordinary doorway with a small roofing over it or one with a superstructure comprising rooms and verandah or an elaborately constructed tower several storeys high. Passing the *Gopuram* the worshipper comes to the *Anakottil* where the elephants are brought to take the deity in procession on festive occasions. The *Sribeli purr* (in the case of large temples) or *Pradakshinavati* starts from one end of the *Anakottil* and after going round the temple rejoins it at the other end. From the *Anakottil* the devotees enter the *Belikkalpura* in the middle of which is located the *Valiya Belikkal*. Between the *Belikkalpura* and the *Anakottil* is the place for the flag staff or *Dhwajam*. The doorway from the *Belikkalpura* gives entrance to the '*Nalambalam*' representing the platforms, etc., on either side of the corridor leading from the doorway, the *Thidappally* or Kitchen, etc. The '*Nalambalam*' is generally bounded on all sides by the '*Vilakkumadam*' or structure of lights."¹ The flight of steps that leads to the *Srikovil* is called the *Sopanam*. In some temples there is a *Mukhamandapam*, a raised platform in front of the *Srikovil*

¹ Quoted in the Travancore State Manual, Vol. I.

and attached to it. Moreover in most of the important temples there is an inner circle within the *Srikovil* wherein the deity is installed. It is called the *Garbhagraham*. Some of the bigger temples have also a separate structure known as the *Kuthambalam* for the exposition of puranic stories. Every temple has also a well inside the *Nalam-balam* which is kept free from defilement. The water for bathing the idol and other purposes connected with the ceremonies in the temple is drawn only from this well. Worshippers enter the inner precincts of the Kerala temples only after taking bath and wearing clean clothes.

The worship in the temples is prescribed by the *Agamas* and the *Tantras*. The *Puja* or worship is performed by the priest after he has purified himself by the performance of such external acts like *dhyanam* (meditation) and *japam* (prayer). This is followed by the offerings of water, flower, sandal incense, camphor etc. The priest alone can touch the idol or enter the *Garbhagrana* in a Kerala temple. It is customary to offer *prasada* to the worshippers from outside the *Srikovil*. It consists of holy ashes, sandal paste, flowers etc. The number of daily *pujas* in a temple varies according to the importance of each. The maximum number is five and the minimum one. The daily *pujas* are called *Nityanidanam*. Under this head come the *abhishekam*, *puja*, *nivedyam*, *namaskaram*, *sribeli* etc. The devotees offer *vazhipadus* which consist of *nivedyams*, *archanas*, lighting etc. The *kanikka* or the depositing of coins is a common offering in most temples. Ornaments and other valuables are also offered by devotees to the deity. *Muzhukappu* or the artistic coating of the idol with sandal paste is an important *vazhipadu* in many temples. In the Tiruvalla temple the performance of *Kathakali* is a favourite *vazhipadu*. The *Palp yasam* at Ambaiapuzha, the *Talapayasam* at Haripad and the *Tadiappam* in Shertallai may also be specially mentioned in this connection. In most of the major temples there is an annual *ulsavam*. The function consists of special services and processions. Exhibitions of various arts like *Kathakali*, *Ottam Tullal*, *Patakam*, etc., are conducted for the benefit of the devotees. During the processions the idol of the deity is taken round in *pradakshinam* inside the temple on the back of caparisoned elephants to the accompaniment of *nagaswaram* and other music.

The temples of the District are now open to all the Hindus irrespective of caste. This was not, however, the position till a quarter of a century ago. The so called *Avarnas* or backward

classes were prevented from entering the temples. They could offer worship only from allotted places of prescribed distance. In course of time a feeling of self-respect asserted itself among the backward classes and the demand for temple entry took shape. The new movement secured the sympathetic support of large numbers of people belonging to the *Savarnas* or Higher Castes. On November 12, 1936 His Highness Sri Chitra Thirunal issued the famous Temple Entry Proclamation throwing open the temples of Travancore to all Hindus irrespective of caste.

FASTS AND FESTIVALS

The traditional Hindu has been a believer in fasts or *Vratam*. Each fast is observed in honour of a particular deity on a day considered sacred to it. *Shashti*, the sixth day of the fortnight, is considered to be sacred to Subramonia. The *Shanda Shashti* which comes off on the sixth day of the bright fortnight in Tulam (October—November) is considered specially sacred. *Ekadasi* is sacred to Vishnu and is observed by all sections of Hindus. The most important *Ekadasis* are *Guruvayar Ekadasi* which falls in the bright fortnight in Vrischikam (November—December) and *Vaikunta Ekadasi* which falls in the bright fortnight in Dhanu (December—January). The thirteenth day of the fortnight is sacred to Siva and *Pradosham* fast is observed. A *Pradosham* falling on Saturday is considered specially sacred. A fast in honour of Parvati is observed on Full Moon days. *Chitra Purnima* falling in Medam (April—May) is the most auspicious. The New Moon day is sacred to the *Pitrus* or manes of deceased ancestors, and *eradha* is offered. The New Moon days in Makaram (January—February) and Karkatakam (July—August) are particularly important.

The Hindus of the District observe a number of religious festivals. In Chingam (August—September) the *Ashtami Rohini*, the sacred day on which Lord Krishna was born, is celebrated. The *Navaratri* festival falls in Kanul (September—October). It is also known as *Durga Puja* or *Dusserah* in other parts of the country. The festival lasts for nine days and is a favourable period for the worship of *Sakti*. The last three days are set apart for the worship of Saraswathi, the Goddess of Learning. Throughout the *Durgashtami*, *Mahanavami* and *Vijaya Dasami* days the worshippers are prohibited from doing their customary work. The *Vijayadasami* or *Puja Eduppu* day is regarded as auspicious for the beginning of children's education—*Vidyarambha*. *Narakachaturdasi* or *Dipavali* is a festival

which falls in the month of *Tulam* (October—November). It is also known as the festival of lights. *Trikkarthika* is another festival which falls in the month of *Vrischikam* (November—December) The main feature is the illumination of Hindu house in the night. The *Thyejuyam* festival which falls in the month of *Makaram* (January—February) is sacred to Subramonia and special offerings are made in all Siva temples and those dedicated to Subramonia. On this day devotees carry *Kavadis* on their shoulders and trek their way to the Subramonia temples. *Maha Sivaratri*, the day on which Lord Siva danced the Thandava dance. is celebrated in *Kumbham* (February—March).

Onam, the premier national festival of the Malayalees, is celebrated on a grand scale by all irrespective of caste or creed, age or sex, in this District. It is the harvest festival of Kerala and falls in the month of *Chingam* (August—September). The festival lasts for ten days of which the last four are more important than the rest. According to tradition it is celebrated in memory of Mahabali, the mythological king, who ruled over Kerala and under whom all people were happy and who is supposed to revisit the land once a year. All over the District during the *Onam* season children engage themselves in various kinds of sports and women take it as an opportunity to enjoy themselves in *Kaikottikali* and other games. The famous boat regattas or *Vallam Kalis* held at Alleppey, Champakulam, Paipad and Aranmula in this District coincide with the *Onam* season in *Chingam*.

The festival of *Vishu* which falls on the first day of *Medam* (April—May), is another major festival. The most important ceremony connected with *Vishu* is the *Kani Kanal* (literally having the first sight.) On the night previous to the *Vishu* day the *Kani* is arranged. It consists of a number of things believed to be auspicious. Cadjan leaf book, gold ornaments, newly white cloth, a measure of rice or paddy, bell-metal mirror, halved jack fruit, flowers of the *Konnu* tree, halved coconut, yellow cucumber and two standing oil lamps with coconut oil emitting sparkling light are placed in a convenient room. On the morning of *Vishu* day every member of the family gets up early and sees the *kani*. The Malayalee believes that if he sees these auspicious things on the first day of the New Year, the whole of the year will be lucky for him. It is also customary for the people to visit such temples as Sabarimala and Thuvalla in connection with *Vishu*. Women who are generally not allowed inside the

Nalambalam of the Tiruvalla temple are permitted to do so on *Vishu* day. Children and poor people get gifts of money from elders on the *Vishu* day. This is called *Vishu Kainitam*.

Tiruvatira, another characteristic festival, is observed in the bright fortnight in *Dhanu* (December-January). It is of special importance to females as it is supposed to commemorate the death of *Kamadcha* (God of Love) who was reduced to ashes by Lord Siva while attempting to wake him up from his penance. A *vratham* is observed by the women folk on this day. They take only light food and keep awake in the night by engaging themselves in such entertainments are *Tiruvatirakali*, a graceful form of dance accompanied by singing. At dawn break they bathe and worship in the nearest temple. Apart from *Vishu*, *Tiruvatira* also provides an occasion for women to enter the *Nalambalam* of the Tiruvalla temple and offer worship.

CHRISTIANS

Next to the Hindus, the Christians form the most important section of the population of the Alleppey District. According to tradition the origin of Christianity in Kerala is traced to St. Thomas, who is said to have landed at Malankara in 52 A. D. and founded seven churches on the Malabar Coast. Two of the churches founded by St. Thomas are believed to be in Alleppey District, viz., at Niranam and Kokkotamangalam. In the course of several centuries Christianity made steady progress in all parts of Kerala including this District. The early Kerala Christians were called "St. Thomas Christians" after the Apostle. The appellation "Syrian Christians" was, however, given to them at a later date when they came to be connected with the Syrian churches of the Middle East and began to use the Syriac language and liturgy. It is generally believed that from the 6th to the 16th century the Kerala Church was in ecclesiastical communion with the Western Church in Persia, though it enjoyed administrative independence under Archdeacons who were the children of the soil. In the 16th century the Portuguese established their power in Kerala and the Church was gradually latinised and brought under the domination of the Pope of Rome. It was the Synod of Diamper convened by Archbishop Alexis De Menezes in 1599 that brought the Kerala Church under the supremacy of Rome and latinised a part of the Christian community of the State. During the same period the Jesuits started their

missionary work on a widespread scale in the Kerala coast. The Alleppey District was one of the main centres of their activities. The greatest among the Jesuit Missionaries who worked in this area was Fr. Giacomo Fenicio, an Italian who was Vicar of St. Andrews Church, Arathungal from 1584 to 1602 and again from 1619 till his death in 1652. A century of intense missionary work by the Jesuits left the Catholic community in the coastal areas of Alleppey considerably increased and provided them with several important churches.

THE ADVENT OF C. M. S. MISSIONARIES AND SCHISM IN THE SYRIAN CHURCH

Towards the middle of the 17th century, the Portuguese power declined and was replaced by the Dutch power and a part of the Church which was under the Pope freed itself from the Roman influence and became independent under local Bishops. Episcopal succession was received through the Jacobite Patriarch in Antioch. In the beginning of the 19th century the Church Missionary Society of London appeared on the scene and worked for a time in close collaboration with the Syrian Bishops. However, they ultimately broke off their connection with the Jacobite Syrian Church and carried on work on their own. It was under such circumstances that the Anglican Church (now part of Church of South India) came into existence in Kerala. Some of the priests of the Jacobite Syrian Church had been greatly influenced by the teachings of the C. M. S. Missionaries and they led a movement for the introduction of certain reforms in the Syrian Church in the light of the new understanding of the teachings of the Bible which they got from the C. M. S. Missionaries. The movement gathered strong support particularly in the Alleppey District. Nevertheless, it met with resistance from the Bishops and the clergy of the Syrian Church, Chupad Mar Dionysius (Mar Dionysius IV), the Malankara Metropolitan, perceiving the danger inherent in the situation and realising that this association between C. M. S. Missionaries and Syrian Clergy would finally destroy the faith and even the individuality of the Syrian community, wanted to sever its connection with the C. M. S. and to bring this into effect, convened a meeting of the representatives of the churches at Mavelikara in 1838. This meeting known in Church history as the Mavelikara Synod affirmed the connection of the Jacobite Syrian Church with the Patriarch of Antioch and declared

publicly the severance of all its connections with the C. M. S. Missionaries and made a statement (Padiyola) to that effect.

The above decision led to disputes between the C. M. S. and the Syrian Church about the properties jointly owned by them. The disputes were finally decided by arbitration and the properties jointly possessed were divided by what is known as the 'Cochin Award' of the 4th of April, 1840. The Syrian community received as their portion the *Vattippanam* (Trust Fund) and other assets which they had before they started to work in co-operation with the missionaries and the properties acquired with their interest.¹ All the other properties were given to the C. M. S. although they were received or bought for the benefit of the Syrian community.

The arbitrators had held that the properties received by the Syrian community by the award should in future be managed by the Malankara Metropolitan conjointly with two other trustees, a priest and a lay man, to be elected by the Malankara Syrian community. The decision made by the arbitrators was not relished by Chepad Dionysius and his followers and consequently they did not act in pursuance of it or receive the interest on the *Vattippanam* by constituting the joint trustees. Mathew Mar Athanasius, the successor of Chepad Dionysius, reversed this policy and convened the representatives of the Church, appointed joint trustees and drew the interest on the *Vattippanam*. In all future disputes the Trust Fund lent itself as a bone of contention to establish the rightful Malankara Metropolitan and his co-trustees.

ABRAHAM MALPAN AND THE REFORM MOVEMENT

The seeds of reformation which the C. M. S. sowed among the Syrians produced the desired results. A good number of the Syrians who were influenced by their teachings joined the C. M. S. Church. They also prepared the ground for a split in the Jacobite Syrian church and the formation of the new Mar Thoma Syrian Church. Abraham Malpan of Maraman, a Malpan or Teacher in the Kottayam Seminary who had been influenced by the C. M. S., propagated

¹ The *Vattippanam* is an amount of 3,000 Star Pagodas (Rs. 10,500) invested in 1808 by Mar Thoma VI (Mar Dionysius I) as a loan in perpetuity, with the then British Resident at Trivandrum carrying an interest of 8% per annum, for charitable purposes, to be drawn by successive Malankara Metropolitans.

the reformed teachings and together with his followers, soon organised a new church for worship. Mathews Mar Athanasius, the new Metropolitan was his nephew. He had visited the Syrian Patriarch and got himself ordained as the Malankara Metropolitan in 1842 by Patriarch Elias II in supersession of Chepad Dionysius and was administering the Jacobite Syrian Church. He was on friendly terms with the missionaries. A large section of the Syrian community opposed him for his reformed views, although he did not profess the same openly after he became Malankara Metropolitan. The dissatisfied section of the Jacobite Syrian community persuaded Patriarch Jacob II to ordain Joseph Dionysius of Pulikutil (Dionysius V) in his place, which the Patriarch did in 1865. Mathews Mar Athanasius refused to submit to the Patriarch's action whereupon Patriarch Peter III, the successor of Patriarch Jacob, II, came to Malankara in 1875 and tried to put him out of office with the help of the Government, but he had to return without success. Mathews Athanasius who was very influential, although under the displeasure of the Patriarch, continued as the Malankara Metropolitan till his death in July 1877. Before his death, he ordained his brother Thomas Mar Athanasius as the Metropolitan of the Malankara Church and gave him possession of the Malankara Church properties. By 1877 the body that supported reform, consisting of about a third of the total community, was forced by Court decisions and the pressure of the majority, to form themselves into a separate Church with headquarters at Tiruvalla in this District and assumed the title "The Mar Thoma Syrian Church." In 1888 it formed the Marthoma Syrian Evangelical Association in order to carry on evangelistic work in Kerala and outside. The famous Maraman Convention is held every year under its auspices.

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE REUNION MOVEMENT

The Christians of the District now belong mainly to three churches, viz., the Catholic Church, the Orthodox (Jacobite) Syrian Church and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. The Catholics follow three rites, viz., Syriac, Latin and Malankara.¹ They live mainly in the Taluks of Ambalapuzha, Shertallal and Tiruvalla. Those who follow the Syro-Malabar rite came under the jurisdiction of two Archbishops, viz., those of Changanacherry and Ernakulam. Those

1 For a detailed history of the organisation and growth of Syro-Malabar and Latin Catholic Churches, see Ernakulam District Gazetteer, pp. 253-56

who follow the Latin rite are under the jurisdiction of four Bishops, viz., those of Cochin, Alleppey, Vijayapuram and Quilon. It may be mentioned that the new Latin Diocese of Alleppey was formed only as recently as June 19, 1952 by the bifurcation of the erstwhile Cochin Diocese. While the Cochin Diocese has jurisdiction over the Latin Catholics in certain parts of Shertallai Taluk, the Diocese of Quilon has jurisdiction over those living in the Mavelikkara and Karthikapally Taluks. The Vijayapuram Diocese has jurisdiction over the Latin Catholics in Ambalapuzha, Tiruvalla and Chengannur. The newly created Diocese of Alleppey has jurisdiction over the area covered by the oldest Jesuit Missions at Arathungal and Purakkad. Those who follow the Malankara rite among the Catholics of the District come under the jurisdiction of the Tiruvalla Diocese. It may be mentioned that this section was for long part of the Jacobite Syrian Church and that it reunited the Catholic Church only in the thirties.

It may be pertinent in this connection to trace briefly the history of the Reunion Movement in the Catholic Church in which the Alleppey District played an important part. The movement had as its aim the reunion of a section of the Syrians with the Catholic Church from which they had seceded earlier. The internal schism in the Jacobite Syrian Church between the Reformed Syrians and the Jacobites who were faithful to the Patriarch of Antioch created interest in a section of the community for reunion with Rome. The movement gathered momentum in the early part of this century. In 1926 some of the prelates at a meeting assembled chose Mar Ivanios of Bethany to deal directly with the Holy See with a view to achieving reunion with Rome. It may be mentioned that Mar Ivanios belonged to an ancient Syrian family of Mavelikkara and he wielded considerable influence among a section of the Malankara Syrian Church. He had founded an independent group in the Church and a religious congregation called "Order of the Imitation of Christ" for the men and women in that church. Between 1919 and 1925, the Brothers and Sisters of Bethany (the name of the first house set up by the new order in Kerala), established themselves as an important factor in the Jacobite Church. In 1928 Mar Ivanios had been made the Metropolitan of Bethany by the Catholicos Mar Basalios III. Mar Theophilos, a monk of Bethany and former pupil of his was made his suffragan at Tiruvalla. In the light of his direct correspondence with Rome, Mar Ivanios together with Mar Theophilos, signed in September, 1930 their profession of adhesion to the

Catholic Church in the presence of the Latin Bishop of Quilon and the Syro-Malabar Bishop of Changanacherry. All the clergy and the laymen who followed him also came back to the Catholic fold. In 1932 a new hierarchy was created for them with Mar Ivanios as Metropolitan of Trivandrum and Mar Theophilos as suffragan Bishop of Tiruvalla. The reunited community was given the appellation "Syro-Malankara" in order to distinguish them from the old Syrian Catholics who follow the Syro-Malabar line. With the formation of the new hierarchy, the reunion movement made steady progress. In November 1933, the Diocese of Tiruvalla was canonically erected in St. John's Cathedral, Tiruvalla, with Mar Theophilos as its Bishop. The Syro-Malankara Diocese of Tiruvalla now comprises the whole of North Kerala State from the river Pamba in the south and part of Madras and Mysore States.

ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

The Jacobite or orthodox Syrians in this District live mainly in Tiruvalla, Mavelikara and Chengannur Taluks. The Orthodox Syrian Church of Malankara to which they owe allegiance has its headquarters at Kottayam where the Catholics of the Apostolic Throne of the East and the Head of the Orthodox Syrian Church in India and all the East lives. Its history has already been alluded to earlier. The administration of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church is done through various Dioceses each of which has a diocesan Bishop. The Tampaman and Niranam Dioceses fall partly within the Alleppey District. Each Diocese comprises of a number of parishes. The size of the parishes generally varies from a dozen or more members to large Cathedral like Churches with a membership of 1,500 or more. Most of the parishes are autonomous and the internal administration is carried on by the Vicar appointed by the Bishop and co-priests and also a Committee elected by the General Body of each parish. In the larger parishes there are several priests whereas in the case of small ones, one priest may be in charge of four, five or more of them. The St. Mary's Church, Niranam one of the premier Orthodox Syrian Churches, has about 31 priests.

Mar Thoma Syrian Church.

The Marthoma Syrian Christians form a very important community in this District, particularly in Tiruvalla Taluk. As

1 See the Ernakulam and Kottayam District Gazetteers for a brief account of the organisation and history of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.

stated earlier, the Mar Thoma Church has its headquarters at Tiruvalla. In view of the special position the Marthomites occupy in the life of the District, a brief account of the religious faith and practices and organisation of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church may be relevant to the scope of this Chapter. In a special note furnished by His Grace Yuhanon Marthoma Metropolitan for use in connection with the compilation of this Chapter the religious faith and practices of the Mar Thoma Church are briefly summarised as follows. "The Mar Thoma Church stands for independence and autonomy of the Church in Malabar. In Church rituals and practices the Mar Thoma Church is, generally speaking, Catholic and Oriental, as it continues in and upholds the Eastern tradition as introduced into Malabar by the Syrian Church of Antioch. While remaining Catholic in creed and confession, it is reformed and evangelical in its doctrinal emphasis. It may thus claim to combine the best elements in the Catholic and Evangelical heritage of the Christian Church down the centuries. The Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches give to tradition an equal place with the Bible as basis for all doctrinal definitions and declarations of faith. The Mar Thoma Church believes that the Bible is the sole basis for all doctrines regarding salvation. This is the view of Western Evangelical Churches too. The Mar Thoma Church believes that worship of God must have the fullest participation in it by the people of God as a whole. So at a time when it was considered highly improper, the Reformers translated the liturgies into Malayalam and used it for worship. Prayers for the dead and invocation of Saints are not accepted by the Mar Thoma Church. These practices have no Biblical basis, and have been found to weaken personal piety and individual responsibility. The Roman Catholics and the Orthodox Churches celebrate Holy Communion, even if there be no recipients from the laity, thus making it appear a kind of sacrifice offered by the priests, but the Mar Thoma Church values Holy Communion as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered by the congregation and the priest, and also a communion with Jesus Christ in which the consecrated Bread and Wine are received as a means of receiving Christ spiritually. The Mar Thoma Church believes that salvation is the free gift of God, received and appropriated by faith. It is the uniqueness of the Mar Thoma Church that it tries to comprehend within it the Catholic and Evangelical emphasis."

As for its organisational set-up, the Mar Thoma Church has a constitutional episcopacy and tries to preserve the values of Congregationalism, Presbyterianism and Episcopal forms of Ministry. The *Prathinidhi Mandalam* is the highest law making authority in the Mar Thoma Church. It consists of all the clergy of the Church and representatives elected from parishes by vote of all the adult members. The *Mandalam* elects a Sabha Council for every three years, which advises the Metropolitan in all administrative matters, and it may be considered as the executive authority of the Church. Besides there is the Episcopal Synod presided over the Metropolitan. The Metropolitan and the Synod have the right to hear and settle all disputes arising in the parishes, and also have disciplinary authority in all Church matters. In questions affecting faith and doctrine, the clergy and laity have to vote separately in the *Mandalam* and if a separate majority is obtained (75%), then the matter must receive the sanction of the Synod for being made binding on the Church. Thus the Church's Constitution (*Bhasana Ghutana*) gives to the laity, the clergy and the Bishops their definite place and functions.

There are on the whole five Bishops and 209 Clergymen and 439 parishes in the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. The Church is divided into three Dioceses known as Southern, Central and Northern Dioceses. The Northern Diocese comprehends the old Cochin State and Malabar area also. The highest concentration of the Mar Thoma people is found in what was formerly known as Central Travancore. Of the five Bishops, one is the Metropolitan, three are Diocesan Bishops in Kerala and another a Missionary Bishop having as his Diocese the Parishes and Mission fields outside Kerala and outside India. The Mar Thoma Church has its members scattered all over the towns and villages of India and in countries like Malaya, Ceylon, Arabian Gulf and Africa. The total membership of the Church is approximately 3 lakhs.

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL CHURCH

It may be mentioned in this connection that a section of the Mar Thoma Church has recently broken off from the main body of that church and formed a new church called the St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India. Its doctrines, especially in the matter of the Holy Communion, differ from those of the parent body. According to this new Church the Holy Communion is but a memorial of the

sacrifice of the Cross and confers no grace. This view is said to correspond to the view of the Zwinglians and Anabaptists. In taking this view they claim that they are in line with the original reformers of the Mar Thoma Church, the late Abraham Malpan and others.

MINOR DENOMINATIONS

Apart from the major denominations described above, there are also some minor denominations carrying on their activities in this District, particularly in Tiruvalla and suburbs. The most important of them are the Indian and Ceylon Pentecost Missions with Kumbanad as their headquarters, the Brother Mission with headquarter at Kumbanad, and the Salvation Army with headquarters at Tiruvalla. These missions have limited following in the areas of their activities. In addition, there is also the Church of South India which has its followers in some parts of the District.

MUSLIMS

The Muslims form the third important religious community in Alleppey District. Islam which was introduced in Kerala in the 7th or 8th century A. D. seems to have found its way into Alleppey District soon thereafter. The Muslims are found in all parts of the District and mainly in the Karttikapally and Ambalapuzha Taluks. They form a homogeneous community and belong to the Sunni sect. The Muslims are mainly concerned with trade and are consequently seen in large numbers in urban or semi-urban areas. They form an important business community in Alleppey town. The Kutchi Memons form part of the Muslim community here. There are mosques in all important Muslim centres. Among the places where Muslims live in considerable numbers and mosques have been set up for worship may be mentioned Kayamkulam; Kakkazham near Ambalapuzha, Kadapra in Tiruvalla town, Mannar in Chengannur Taluk, Takazhi in Kuttanad Taluk and Pattanakad and Kuthiatode in Shertallai Taluk. The priest of the mosque called *Musalier* has to be present at all ceremonies connected with marriage, death etc. among Muslims. The Muslim observe various fasts and festivals, the most important of them being the *Ramzan*, *Muharram* and *Bakrid*. Some of the local Muslim celebrations like the *Chandana-kudam* attract huge crowds. The Muslims have lived in peace and amity with their Hindu and Christian brethren for centuries. The existence of the mosque, temple and church in close proximity to one another at places like Purakkad is a clear demonstration of this long communal harmony.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

All major incidents in a person's life have some ceremony or other connected with them. Among the ceremonies which are still current among the Hindus may be mentioned *Namakaramam*, *Chorunu*, *Vidyarambham*, *Upanayanam*, *Sradha*, etc. The *Namakaramam* or naming ceremony is celebrated within a month of the child's birth. The father sits cross-legged before a lighted lamp near which is placed a vessel containing the eight auspicious things (*ashtamangalyam*)¹. After the usual preliminaries he places the child on his lap and whispers the proposed name three times in its right ear. Friends and relatives assemble and bless the family. *Annaprasanam* or *Chorunu* takes place when the child is six months old. This is the first feeding of the child with rice. The mother brings the child after bathing it, and places it on the lap of the father. The child is then given rice and curries. This ceremony is performed in temples also. The temples of Chengannur, Ambalapuzha and Takazhi are famous in this regard. *Vidyarambham* or initiation into the letters of the alphabet is gone through in the 3rd or 5th year of the child. Usually on the *Vijayadasami* day (*Puja Eduppu* Day) the father takes the child on his knees and writes the alphabets, the letters being traced in rice by the father holding the ring finger of the child. *Upanayanam* which is common among the Brahmins is the investiture of the body with the sacred thread. It is generally performed in the 8th year and the performance on this ceremony makes him twice born i.e., a Brahmin. All Brahmins, both Malayali and Tamil, perform this ceremony. *Sradha* is the ceremony of making offerings to the departed spirits of forefathers. This is performed every year. Cooked rice, plantain fruits, coconuts, parched rice etc., are served as offerings on a plantain leaf and kept in a room with a lamp in front of it. After some time the room is opened and the offerings are distributed among the family members.

Talikettukalyanam, *Tirandukuli*, *Pulikudi* etc., are ceremonies which were once prevalent among the Nairs and the Ezhavas etc.,

1 The eight auspicious things are a measure of paddy, rice, an absolutely white cloth, an arrow, a lighted lamp, a looking glass, a blossom of the coconut plant and a cheppu, History of Kerala, Vol III, K.P. Padmanabha Menon, P.2-7

but they have now become defunct. *Talikettukalyanam* was performed for all girls before they attained puberty. The *Tali* (a small piece of gold attached to a string) was tied round the neck of the girl by a male belonging to the same or higher caste. But this is to be distinguished from the *Tali* tying in a marriage ceremony. Here the *Tali* tier did not have any claim on the girl as the *Talikettukalyanam* was not a real marriage. It was done with a view to giving the girl a marriageable status. The ceremony of *Tirukuduli* was celebrated when a girl attained puberty. The girl was kept in a separate room for about four days. In the room a lamp was lit and a brass pot with a bunch of coconut flowers was kept. Friends and relatives were invited and treated to a sumptuous feast. The girl used to get presents from the guests. Another ceremony viz., *Pulikudi* (tamarind juice drinking) was quite essential for pregnant women in the ninth month of pregnancy. Even now it is the practice among all sections of the community to invite the pregnant girl to her house and to treat her well. The ceremonies described above led to a lot of unnecessary expenditure in olden days and several middle class families were ruined. Social reformers worked hard to discourage the practice of these ceremonies and they are, therefore, not observed at present.

Many of the birth and childhood customs prevalent in the Hindu community have been found among the Christians and Muslims also in some form or other. Caste prejudices which are inherent in Hinduism have found a place among some sections of Christians also. Even today there exists in the Christian fold a sect known as Depressed Class Christians who are mainly converts from among the Scheduled Castes and the Government give them too most of the concessions allowed to the Scheduled Castes in the Hindu community. It is seen that Christians have as much faith in astrology as Hindus and they get horoscopes cast for newborn babies. This is true in general of the Muslims also to a certain extent. The Christians as well as the Muslims tie round the neck of the bride a *tali* on the wedding day. This custom is prevalent among almost all classes of native Christians and Muslims and is a product of Hindu influence. The anniversary ceremony for the soul of the dead corresponding to the *Sraddha* of the Hindus is performed by Christians with services in the Church and feasts in their house. The Muslims also conduct an anniversary ceremony known as *Khathom* for the soul of the dead. *Musaliars* and other learned men guide the ceremony. Poor people are given meals

in the Muslim house. The Christians and some Muslims also celebrate the *Onam* festival which was confined to the Malayali Hindus till recently. Most of these customs and manners of the Christians and Muslims have no religious sanction whatsoever behind them and are modelled on those of the Hindus.

FUNERAL CEREMONIES

The funeral ceremonies differ from community to community in respect of several details. When the Hindu breathes his last the joint members pour a few drops of water or milk into his mouth. Relatives and others are duly informed as soon as a person dies. The dead body is placed at the central courtyard with the head to the south. It is then washed and marks of *bharna* (sacred ash) and sandal paste are made on the forehead and joints. The body is laid on a long plain leaf after it is covered with new clothes especially silk of red hue. Then it is removed to a bed of fresh-cut bamboo and taken to the cremation ground on the shoulders by the nearest relatives, e. g., sons, nephews, etc. Before the cremation blood relations put rice (*vaikari*) in the mouth of the dead body. While in South Kerala dried cow dung is used for the purpose of cremation, it is seen that in this District the mango tree is felled down and cut into pieces and used as fuel for cremation. The eldest son who is the chief mourner tears a piece from the wrapped new cloth and wears it round the waist, tucking to his waist a piece of iron. This is done before setting fire to the pyre. The chief mourner with a pot of water goes round the pyre thrice letting the water out from a pierced hole. Then he allows the pot on the head to fall from his back. The *sanchayana* or the disposal of the bones of the dead person is done on the 4th or the 7th day. The mourners collect unburnt bones and ash and these are put in a mud pot covered with another and is buried underneath a jack tree. On a later occasion they are carried to some holy place and consigned to the river. On the death of a person the *Beliyidal* (offering of pollution) is over which may be—for 16 days or less.

Among the Christians, on the death of a person the body is washed, covered with new clothes and placed in a room facing the East with a cross at the head and candles at either side. The news of the death is announced to the public by the ringing of the church bell. Prayers are said in the house by the priest. A ceremony of anointing with oil also takes place. When all are assembled the funeral procession starts. The body is taken to the Churchyard in a

coffin which is decorated and has on it three or four lighted candles with a cross between them. Before the actual burial as the body is being taken into the Churchyard the Church bell rings again. Hymns are also sung. Then the coffin is lowered into the grave and the priest sprinkles earth on it in the form of the sign of the cross. At the end of the funeral the relatives and mourners return home and they are served with congee (gruel of rice). Prayers (*Quishnas*) for the peace of the soul are held during the whole period of mourning. At the end of the seventh day a feast is conducted.

Among the Muslims, when a person breathes his last his nearest relatives recite the *Kalima* in his ears. Immediately after his death the pillow on which his head rested is removed. The body is then neatly washed and covered with clean clothes. The *Mullas* and the relatives read the Quran until the body is taken to the mosque. The dead body is washed again and then it is covered with new clothes on which rose water is sprinkled and grains of camphor strewn. It is then taken to the mosque in a bier. In the mosque relatives and local people offer prayers with the dead body before them. Then it is placed in the grave with great solemnity amidst the chanting of holy hymns. The *Maulud* ceremony is performed on the 3rd, 7th or 15th and 40 days after death. Those who can afford arrange for the Quran to be read for a few days by a group of persons in a small pavillion temporarily built on the tomb. During this time alms are distributed among the poor.

INTER-CASTE RELATIONS വർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധം

Till a few decades ago inter-caste relations were very rigid in this District as elsewhere in Kerala. Each caste had within its fold several sub-castes. The relations between the various castes and sub-castes were hardly free. Intermarriage and inter-dining between the different castes and sub-castes were not permitted. Moreover, certain castes defined as untouchables and unapproachables were even prevented from enjoying in full the rights of citizenship. They were denied entry into temples and were also not admitted into Government service. Nevertheless, the spread of English education and liberal ideas, the migration of population from the rural to the urban areas, the rapid expansion of the means of communication, the movement for temple entry sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress, and social reform movements led by Sri Chhattampi Swamikal and Sri Narayana Guru, the activities of

radical political parties like the Communist Party and above all the introduction of adult franchise have contributed to the breakdown of inter-caste and inter-sub-caste barriers. The Alleppey District, in fact, played a leading part in the movement for temple entry in Kerala. T. K. Madhava, one of the leaders of the movement, hailed from this District. The temple of Panayanarkavu in this District was thrown open to all castes and classes of Hindus long before the Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936 and it was hailed as a step in the right direction. Side by side with the movement for temple entry, the cause of inter-dining also received support from among progressive sections of the Hindu society. One of the earliest cases of organised inter-dining in this District was at a Congress session held at Chengannur in 1097 K.E. (1921-22). Mannath Padmanabhan and other leaders worked hard to make the function a great success. Inter-dining is now universally accepted. Even inter-caste marriages have begun to take place occasionally and it is even the policy of the Kerala Government to encourage such marriages with Harijans by making lump sum grants of Rs. 500 to deserving parties.

PROPERTY AND INHERITANCE

As in other parts of Kerala, the *Murumakkathayam* or the matrilineal system of inheritance prevailed in the Alleppey District till 1912. Under this system all descent was traced through the female line or through the sister's children, a man's own children having no legal claim to his property. The *tarawad* property was the joint property of all the members who could trace their descent in the female line from a single ancestress. Each of the members was entitled to maintenance from the family property, though none could claim partition. Partition was possible only with the consent of all the members. In the *Murumakkathayam* society the *Karanavan* (the head of the family) was an autocrat and he frequently came into conflict with his *ananthavans* (junior male members of the family.) The Nair and Ezhavas constituted the most important *Murumakkathayam* communities in the District till a few decades ago. In addition, the Ambalavasis and Kshatriyas were also *Murumakkathayis*. The Brahmins including the Nambuthiris and Gowda Saraswaths followed the patrilineal system of inheritance. The Christians and the Muslims have also followed the *Makkathayam* or patrilineal system.

The traditional *Murumakkathayam* society has disintegrated in recent times. The younger generation revolted against the system

and clamoured for the enactment of legislative measures to scrape it. The movement for the abolition of the *Marumakkathayam* law of succession among the Nairs was sponsored by the Nair Service Society and it won the support of all progressive sections of the community. In 1083 K. E. (1907—1908) the Travancore Government appointed a committee of officials and non-officials with A. Govinda Pillai, a Judge of the Travancore High Court, as President to enquire into the working of the system and suggest suitable changes. The members of the committee visited various parts of the State, examined witnesses and submitted their report recommending reform in the law of inheritance. A Bill was introduced by the Government in the Travancore Legislature and passed into law as Act 1 of 1088 K. E. (1912 A. D.). The measure represented a great advance, but it did not provide for individual partition of Nair *tarawads* but only for *tarachi* partition. It also sanctioned half of the self-acquired property of a male to his children and the other half to his nephews. The first Nair Act, therefore, failed to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the progressive sections of the Nair community. A new Bill was introduced in the Legislature by a non-official member in 1092 K. E. (1916-17 A. D.) in order to amend the first Nair Act. But the motion was lost, the official members having voted en bloc against the measure. In 1097 K. E. (1921-1922) another non-official bill was introduced into the Legislature and it was passed into Law as Act 11 of 1100 (1925 A. D.). The Bill was ably piloted by Changanacherry K. Parameswaran Pillai. Under this Act, the partition of Nair *tarawads* was sanctioned, the shares being calculated per capita. The nephews were also deprived of all claims to the properties of their uncles. The Nair Act was soon followed by the enactment of the Ezhava Act (1925) and the Nanjanad Vellala Act (1926) providing for transition from the *Marumakkathayam* to the *Makkathayam* law of inheritance for these *Marumakkathayam* communities also. Several sections of the Hindu community thus became *Makkathayis* and the old Hindu joint family was disrupted. The lingering influence of the old *Marumakkathayam* system may, however, be seen in the observance of certain customary ceremonies and death and birth pollutions by the erstwhile *Marumakkathayam* communities even today.

MARRIAGE AND MORALS

MONOGAMY AND POLYGAMY

Polygamy was prevalent among several sections of the Hindu community in this District till a few decades ago. It was practised without any feeling of repugnance by the Nambuthiris, the Kshatriyas, the Nairs, the Ezhavas, the Pulayas, the Kuravas, etc. But in recent times, progressive social legislation and enlightened public opinion have helped in the evolution of a monogamous society. The Travancore Nair Act of 1925 was one of the earliest, pieces of legislation to make polygamy illegal. Similarly, legal prohibition on polygamy was imposed in the case of the Ezhavas, the Vellalas, the Nambuthiris and the Kshatriyas also. The legal irresponsibility of maintaining wife and children imposed by law made polygamous marriages less attractive to the higher castes like the Brahmins and the Kshatriyas and thus contributed to the progressive decline of polygamy in erstwhile Travancore. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 which has made monogamy both general and compulsory for Hindus all over the country has dealt a death blow to the practice of polygamy and a completely monogamous Hindu society is sure to emerge in the not distant future. The Christians have, as a rule, never practised polygamy, but among the Muslims, though it is not prohibited by law or custom, public opinion and considerations of economy have discouraged the practice.

POLYANDRY

Polyandry was quite common in ancient times among certain Hindu communities in the Alleppey District as in other parts of Kerala. The prevalence of polyandry among the Nairs has been testified to by several foreign travellers who visited Kerala in the medieval period. It was not considered objectionable for a Nair woman to mate with as many men as she liked. According to some writers the Nairs practised fraternal polyandry. The Ezhavas of the District also followed fraternal polyandry in the past. Polyandry of the same type was also prevalent among the Kammalas who led the most precarious existence and had, therefore to observe the strictest economy. The Christians and the Muslims have not been known to have practised polyandry. With the growth of education and the spread of liberal ideas, polyandry has been given up as a sign of the lack of civilisation by most of the communities which at one time practised it.

TRADITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON MARRIAGE ALLIANCES

Marriage alliances among all castes and communities are subject to certain traditional restrictions. Some of these restrictions are based on considerations of caste and others on the degree of relationship between the parties. The common practice has been for the member of a caste or community to marry only from within the same caste or community. Almost all castes and communities prohibit marriages between near blood relations. It is an accepted principle that blood cannot mate with blood. Among Nambuthiris there is the strict rule that the parties to the marriage should not be of the same *gotra* or *pravara*, i. e., they must not be of the same family nor invoke the same ancestor. Conjugal relationship between first cousins is seldom allowed. Among the Nambuthiris as a class only the eldest son is allowed to marry within the caste, all other sons enter into conjugal relationship with Nair, Kshatriya or Ambalavasi women. The Tamil Brahmins are divided into a number of endogamous sub-divisions or *gotrams* which cannot inter-marry. A Tamil Brahmin's son is allowed to marry his sister's daughter and *vice versa*. The marriage of persons of the same *gotra* or *pravara* as well as of *Sapindas* is not permitted among Gowda Saraswaths. Among them the children of sisters are not allowed to intermarry, though they belong to different *gotras*. The marriage to one's sister daughter is not in vogue among them. The Nairs observe in their marriages the same rules relating to prohibited degree of relationship as are observed by Tamil Brahmins with the one difference that marriage with a sister's daughter does not take place. Thus, among Nairs, the children of brothers and sisters enter into marital relationship. However, the children of sisters do not marry each other. Nor do the children of brothers. Among the Catholics conjugal relations and cousins up to the fourth degree are forbidden. But the Muslims have no such objection to marriage relationship with close relations. The sons and daughters of brothers and sisters of ten intermarry.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS AND RITUALS

The marriage customs and rituals of the major castes and sects may be briefly described here. The marriages among all castes and communities are generally negotiated by the parents of the bride and bridegroom. In the matter of ceremonial observances there are however, some variations between the different castes. Thus while among the Nairs the tying of the *Tali* is not an essential condition

for the marriage to be valid, among the Ezhavas it is as much an essential part of the marriage as the presentation of cloth by the husband to the wife. It is also customary both among the Nairs and Ezhavas to compare the horoscopes of the parties before the marriage is actually settled. If the horoscopes are found to agree, an auspicious day is fixed for the marriage. Usually it is celebrated in the house of the bride. But at present several marriages are conducted in temples as it is considered more economical and convenient to do so. In this District a large number of marriages take place in temples like those of Chengannur and Tiruvalla where feasts are also arranged by the parties. If the marriage is held in the bride's house, a temporary *pandal* is put up and specially decorated for the occasion. A circular design is drawn on the floor by rice-flour mixed in water. Three standing oil lamps (*Nilavilakkus*) are placed near the entrance in the eastern side of the hall. A big receptacle with paddy and coconut efflorescence fixed in it is placed in the centre. Two smaller receptacles with flower and parched paddy, a bell metal mirror and a *grandha* (sacred book) are also kept in the hall. On arrival the bridegroom with his party is received with *Ashtamangalyam* or the eight auspicious things. Also the feet of the bridegroom are washed by the bride's brother. The bridegroom is then brought in and seated with the bride facing the east. The father of the bride joins the hands of his daughter with those of the groom. Flower garlands and gold rings are exchanged between the bride and groom. The tying of the *Tali* and presentation of clothes by the bridegroom are also done. The invited guests are treated to a sumptuous feast. The ceremony ends with the distribution of lemon and *pansu pari* to the assembled guests.

Among Christians too the marriage is arranged by the parents of the bride and bridegroom and it is solemnised in the Church. Elaborate enquiries are made about the bride before the marriage is formally settled. The Jacobite and Mar Thoma Syrians usually conduct marriages on particular days of the week the former on Sundays and the latter on Mondays or Thursdays. The bridegroom ties a small ornament called *minnu* round the bride's neck and presents a cloth (*neriatu*) to her. The marriages of the Catholics are to be blessed by the priest or his delegate. The priest conducts the marriage ceremony and blesses the union when the bride and the bridegroom join hands as a sign of mutual consent. The bridegroom then ties the *Tali* around the neck of the bride. The priest and the

bridegroom put a veil (*mantrakodi*) over the bride's head. The *tali* is to be worn by the bride till her death and it is buried with her. The usual prayers are said on the occasion of the marriage and the blessings of God invoked by the *praish*. Then the party returns home. A feast is given to the assembled guests in the house of the bride. The bridegroom may also arrange a party for his friends and relatives. Marriage among pentecosts and followers of the Brother Mission is a simple affair. Neither *minnu* nor *tali* is used by them.

Among the Muslims the marriage is formally fixed by the parents in the presence of relatives and guests on the day of betrothal which takes place normally in the house of the bridegroom. The marriage is conducted in the house of the bride. Till recently Muslim marriages were held in the night. But now this custom has faded out and people have begun to prefer day time. The father of the bride and of the bridegroom sit facing each other, and the ceremony called *Nikkah* is conducted by the *Musaliar* in the presence of relatives, friends and local people. Then the bridegroom with the *tali* enters the apartment where the bride is seated. His sister helps him to tie the *tali* around the neck of the bride. The assembled guests are treated to sumptuous feast and with this the wedding ceremony is over.

DOWRY SYSTEM

The dowry system has prevailed among almost all communities and castes in this District—Hindus, Christians and Muslims. The parents of the bride pay the dowry either in cash or in the form of gold or jewellery or vessels or property. Girls of rich families have been found to be sought after by educated young men in view of the former's share of the family property. Social reformers have tried their best to do away with dowry system, but the evil still persists. The Dowry prohibition Act which came into force with effect from July 1, 1961 is an attempt to abolish the evil by legislation. The Act declares giving, taking and demanding of dowry as offences punishable under law. But it is doubtful whether legislative action alone would achieve any positive result. Public opinion has to assert itself before the evil can disappear completely.

CIVIL MARRIAGES

The overwhelming majority of marriages among all communities are being solemnised according to the personal laws of each community at their homes, temples, churches or mosques. Civil

marriage is resorted to only when marriage under personal laws is not possible. The District Registrar, Alleppey, has furnished the following figures of registered marriages in the District in 1962 and 1963.

	1962	1963
Number of marriages under the Special Marriage Act	Nil	1
2 Number of marriages under the Indian Registration Act	125	178
Number of intercaste marriages registered	4	3

MARITAL AGE

The following table summarises the marital status of the general population in the Alleppey District at the Census of 1961.

Distribution of 1,000 persons of each sex by marital status

Marital status	Total	Rural	Urban
I MALES	1,000	1,000	1,000
1 Never married	626	623	639
2 Married	349	351	339
3 Widowed	20	21	17
4 Divorced or separated	5	5	5
5 Unspecified	N	N	N
II FEMALES	1,000	1,000	1,000
1 Never married	521	520	524
2 Married	357	360	345
3 Widowed	101	98	111
4 Divorced or separated	21	22	20
5 Unspecified	N	N	N

It may be noted that 63% of the males and 52% of the females were returned as "never married". The proportion of widowers to males is less than the proportion of widows to total females.

DIVORCE

It has already been observed that only 5 out of 1,000 males and 21 out of 1,000 females were separated or divorced in the Alleppey District during the Census of 1961. It is clear from this that the number of cases of divorce are not alarmingly high. As marriage is considered to be sacred by all castes and communities, divorce is not generally favoured by society. This accounts for the small percentage of divorced or widowed persons. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955

permits divorce at the instance of either party on grounds of adultery, idiocy or lunacy. Women can sue for judicial separation or divorce. In spite of such legal sanction accorded to divorce, the number of divorces have not increased to any appreciable extent. The District Registrar, Alleppey, reports that 182 cases of divorce were registered in this District in 1962 and 178 in 1963.

MARRIAGE OF WIDOWS

The attitude to widow marriage has differed from community to community. The custom was not generally favoured by some of the orthodox Hindu communities like the Tamil Brahmins. The Nairs and the Ezhavas have always permitted widow marriage. The custom of marrying the deceased wife's sister (i.e. sororate) has been found to have been prevalent among them on a small scale. At the same time the custom of marrying the deceased brother's wife (i.e. levirate) has also been prevalent to a certain extent. We have no precise statistical data regarding widow marriage but some general conclusions can be arrived at from the census figures of 1961. It has been stated earlier that during the census of 1961 among 1,000 persons in the male population of the District 20 were widowers and among the female population 101 were widows. The smaller proportion of widowers is explained by the larger number of marriages among them. In the case of widows social stigma has unfortunately stood in the way of their marriage even in spite of enabling legislation.

PROSTITUTION, DRINKING AND GAMBLING

The District is not free from social evils like prostitution, drinking and gambling. The Travancore Cochin Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (1951) and the Kerala Gambling Act (1960) are in force. The former provides for the suppression of brothels and of traffic in women and the latter makes better provision for the punishment of gambling and the keeping of common gambling houses. The table given below gives the statistical information relating to the offences that come under the category of prostitution, drinking and gambling for each of the years from 1957 to 1963.

Year	Cases under Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and girls	Cases of drinking	Cases under Gambling Act
1957	4	706	..
1958	6	462	..

1959	5	565	248
1960	Nil	878	453
1961	Nil	828	224
1962	Nil	864	236
1963	1	633	151

DWELLINGS

The following statement gives the distribution of thousand households in Alleppey District according to the number of rooms occupied as per the Census of 1961.

Distribution of 1,000 census households according to number of rooms occupied

Taluks	(Based on 20% sample)					
	No regular room	1 room	2 rooms	3 rooms	4 rooms	5 rooms and more
Shertallai	40	354	386	126	48	46
Ambalapuzha	0	318	477	121	38	46
Kuttanad	0	156	491	205	66	82
Tiruvalla	12	377	362	122	53	74
Chengannur	8	403	324	132	56	77
Karthikapally	15	478	334	109	31	33
Mavelikara	9	424	288	165	52	62

In the Alleppey District, the smallest percent of households fall in the group having no regular rooms. Taking the households with regular rooms, the highest percent of households in the Taluks of Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Kuttanad have double room tenements and in the remaining Taluks single room tenements. The smallest percent of households in all the Taluks except Shertallai are in the group of households with 4 rooms, while in the Shertallai Taluk they are in the group with 5 rooms and more.

The particulars of the number of persons per room and the number of persons per household in the District are given below.

Number of persons per room and household
Number of persons per

	Room	Household
Total	2.82	5.92
Rural	2.84	5.89
Urban	2.99	6.05

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

The pattern of dwellings in this District is not different from what it is in other parts of Kerala. The traditional upper class house called *nalukettu* may still be seen in various parts of this District. It consists of a rectangular structure, sometimes tiled but generally with a thatched roof, comprising a central courtyard, the structure being divided into four main rooms and four corner rooms, and the courtyard being connected to the outside by four corridors arranged in *swastika* form. Wood and laterite are the important building materials used for the construction of such houses wood for the making of columns, eaves, the gables, the overhanging roof and the balconies and laterite for the basement and foundation of the building. Verandahs and cattle-sheds also form part of every such house. The houses of the poor classes which form the majority of the dwellings in the District consist generally of one or two small rooms with a kitchen at one end and a verandah either in the front or on all sides of the main building. These huts are roofed with leaves of coconut palm or grass or straw.

The modern class house is constructed in the western style and it consists of a drawing room, a dining hall, bed rooms with attached bath rooms. It may consist of one or more storeys according to the financial capacity of the party concerned. The roof is made of reinforced concrete and is decorated on the sides by concrete railings of attractive designs. The walls are plastered with lime, or with cement and then whitewashed. The floor is done in cement, or in mosaic, if the party can afford to have it. The windows are provided with iron bars of different varieties. Decorative grills are also used in some houses, at least on the front side in order to ensure an attractive appearance. The bars which were till recently fixed vertically in the windows are now being placed horizontally. Ventilators have become indispensable items. Either they are attached to the top of the windows or provided separately. A flower garden in front of the house has become the fashion of the day. The houses are invariably provided with electric lights and pipes, wherever possible. Those which are not roofed with concrete have wooden ceilings.

The Census Report of 1961 throws light on some of the distinctive features and patterns of dwellings in Alleppey District. Both in the rural and urban areas of the Alleppey District the percentage of households having C.I. sheets or other metal sheets, or 'other metals' for the walls of their dwellings is either nil or less than one. Grass, leaves

reeds of bamboo, timber, mud, unburnt bricks and burnt bricks and stones are used on a larger scale than others almost everywhere.

FURNITURE AND DECORATIONS

The house of the well-to-do have fairly well furnished drawing rooms chairs, tables, settees, teapots, sofa etc., made either of wood or of rattan are extensively used by the upper class. The doors and windows of houses are provided with curtains. Radio sets and flower pots wherein either fresh flowers or artificial flowers or artificial flowers made of paper or plastic are kept as decorations in every drawing room. The clock, the photos and the calendars adorn the walls. Coir mats and carpet are spread on the floor. This is almost a peculiarity of the District which is the centre of the Coir industry. Wooden cots are found in most houses, but people also sleep on grass or screw pine mats spread on floors. At twilight bronze lamps are lit. The lighting of the lamps is a delightful ceremony with childrens quating around the lamps chanting devotional songs. Some of the bronze lamps are ornamental and oil is generally used as an illuminant. Kerosene lamps are lit only after the ceremonial lighting of the bronze lamp is done. But now electric lights have to a great degree replaced the kerosene lamps. It must, however, be stated that a few earthenware pots and mats form the only household possessions of the poor classes.

DRESS

The people of Kerala are noted for the simplicity and elegance of their dress. The vast majority of them prefer white clothes to coloured clothes. It is a common sight to see people in all walks of life, both in the rural and urban areas, going about their work clad in immaculate white. A piece of cloth (*mundu*), two to two and a half yards long and one and a half yards broad, is worn round the loins by men of almost all communities. A small upper garment is also worn while at home. While this traditional form of dressing is in vogue among men irrespective of caste, there are differences in the dress of the women. The women of the Nair, Kshatriya, Ambalavasi and such other Hindu communities wear an inner garment round the loins and cover it with an outer garment which is usually two and a half yards in length and one and a half yards in breadth. Sometimes instead of two clothes one cloth which is sufficiently long for the purpose is worn. In the past these women used to leave the upper part of the body exposed, but this custom has now disappeared except among the very old. The dress of the Tamil Brahmin women consists of the blouse and the *pudava* which is a

coloured cloth, nine yards in length and a yard and a half in breadth. The dress of the Gowda Saraswath woman consists of a mere *sari* reaching the ankles and the usual blouse. The conventional dress used by Christian woman is the white *mundu* or cloth about seven yards long and one and a quarter yard broad worn in a distinctive style with a fan-like portion on the back side. They cover the upper part of the body with a long sleeved blouse. The Muslim women have a liking for gaudy dress. They wear jumpers closed at the neck with long sleeves and cover their heads with scarves.

The sartorial fashions have undergone changes among all classes of people in recent times. The conventional costumes have been given up by modern young women in favour of white or coloured sarees and jumpers, blouses, brassiers, cholis etc. New forms of dress such as blouses with low-cut necks, openings at the back, close-fitting sleeves up to the elbow etc. have also come into vogue among women of the higher strata. The wardrobe of the well-to-do young men and urbanites of today consists of all the items of the western dress ensemble including the bush-coat, bush-shirt, slack made of the fibre of terrylene, etc., and a pair of trousers.

The women of Kerala take special care in the growth and preservation of their hair. They use plenty of oil to improve its growth and to keep it smooth and shiny. The traditional way of hair dressing among women has been to part the hair in the middle and tie it either tight to the ears or twist it up in front in a sort of cone or sometimes to tie it into a knot behind. It was considered a mark of beauty for a young woman's plait of hair to reach the knee or even lower. Several attractive forms of hair dressing have come into vogue among young women in recent times. Artificial hair, hair nets and rings are used for putting up the hair in attractive ways. The pony tail and the pig tail are two distinctive styles eagerly sought after by girls.

ORNAMENTS

Ornaments of different types are in use among all classes of people in this District even from very early days. The Nair women of old used a typical necklace called *nagapatam*, or serpent's hood, so called from the shape of the pendant. The *Addiyal* was another characteristic ornament used by them. Among the other ornaments used by Nair women for the neck may be mentioned the *Yantrum*, *poothali*, *avilmala* and *pulinakham*. Their nose ornament was called *Mukkuthi* and from it was suspended a gold wire called *Gnattu*. Gold or silver belts were worn round the loins. While grown-up women did not wear anklets,

the young ones used *Kappu* and *Kolusu*. The ear ornament of the Nair women was the *toda* which was a double convex disc, the front surface of which was either plain or set with rubies. The ear lobes were dilated for wearing the *toda*. The dilating process began at a very early age and the ear lobes became so far distended as to make it possible to wear *todas* of more than an inch in diameter. Rings of all kinds were used for fingers. While the Nambuthiri women used only as few ornaments as possible, the Tamil Brahmin women used the maximum number of ornaments. They had ornaments for the head, nose, ears, neck, arms, fingers, wrists, feet and in fact for every part of the body. The Syrian Christian women bore their ears in several parts and wore a kind of heavy gilt brass ring called *Mekka Motiram* at the top of each ear. The ear lobes were dilated by them when quite young to accommodate a 'U' shaped ornament at the time of wedding. They were also accustomed to use necklaces and rings of various sorts. The Muslim women used to wear a large number of ornaments all over their body. They had several necklaces for the neck in addition to armlets, bracelets, bangles and anklets of different descriptions. It was customary to have ten to fourteen holes bored in each ear in order to facilitate the wearing of a string of ornaments.

The craze for ornaments had diminished with the lapse of years among all the classes of women. They now limit their jewellery to the absolute minimum. A simple gold chain with a pendant is preferred for the neck. The modern ear ornaments consist of simple ear rings, studs etc. Bracelets and bangles are worn on the wrists. They are made not only of gold but also of such cheap materials as glass, rubber and plastic. The national Emergency declared in the wake of the Sino-Indian War (1962) and the slogan "Ornaments for Armaments" had its impact on women and lessened the craze for gold ornaments. The Gold Control Rules introduced in January 1963 limiting the gold content of ornaments and Gold Bond Scheme launched in 1965 in the wake of the Indo-Pak conflict also helped to change the outlook of people towards the use of gold ornaments.

FOOD

Rice, boiled and served hot, is the staple food of people of all castes and creeds in the District. The rice consumed is usually of the coarse type, mostly hand-pounded. Tapioca which is grown extensively in parts of the District is also used by the poorer classes as a kind of staple food. It is cut into slices, boiled and eaten along with some curry. Wheat has come into vogue increasingly in recent

times view of the scarcity of rice and *Chapathi* has consequently become a common item of diet.

The daily dietary of a middle class family consists of the breakfast, mid-day meal or lunch, the afternoon tiffin and supper at night. The traditional Malayali breakfast was the *conjee* (rice boiled) in water and served in liquid form taken with some pickles, *pappadam* and ghee. This has now become a thing of the past. The modern breakfast consists of dishes like *dosa*, *idli*, *puri*, etc., and beverages like coffee or tea. The more well-to-do sections take bread, with jam or butter, eggs and such costly beverages as cocoa, oats' horlicks, bournvita etc. Dishes made of rice are preferred by the people, but those prepared from wheat have become common out of sheer necessity. The meal at mid-day is an elaborate affair and it consists of boiled rice and curries with pickles and butter milk. Non-vegetarians take fish and mutton curries in preference to vegetable curry. The tiffin consists of tea or coffee and some boiled or other. The supper after sunset is either conjee or a full meal with some of the items are used for mid-day lunch. Coconut oil and condiments are used in all culinary preparations. The coconut is an indispensable ingredient in almost all curries.

AMUSEMENTS AND FESTIVITIES

All the traditional festivities and pastimes of Kerala have flourished in this area from early days. The Alleppey District has, in fact, played an important part in the development of the time-honoured temple arts and festivities like *Kathakali*, *Kuthu*, *Kutiyattam* and *Ottam Tullal*. Of these *Kathakali* is an internationally renowned dance drama of Kerala. It is a unique feature of *Kathakali* that in it the actors do not speak, but only act dialogic sections called *padams* through appropriate symbols (*mudras*) and facial expressions as the songs are sung by singers from behind. The make-up of the actors in *Kathakali* has its own significance in each case. The most important *Kathakali* characters from the point of view of make-up are *Pachan*, *Kathi*, *Tati* and *Minukku*. The chief characteristic of the *Pachan* (Green) make-up is the predominance of the green paint which symbolises the moral excellence of the characters. Those who possess *satvaguna* or divine qualities like the *devas* and mythological heroes like Indra, Ravana, Rama, Nala, Pandavas, Krishna, Kubera etc. come under this group. Dignified, graceful and artistic movements are associated with these characters. The characters falling under the

Kathi (Knife) type symbolise evil qualities or a race of demons like Ravana, Sisupala, Kamsa etc. The predominant quality in them is *rajoguna*. Hence they are painted mainly with fiery red patches, savage knobs and upturned and fiery moustaches. The characters which come under the Tati (Bird) group are the red beard, the white beard and the black beard according as the beard worn is red, white or black. This type represents vicious, voluptuous and vile characters like Dussasana, Bakasura etc. The *Minukku* or polished group of characters represent gentleness, restraint and innate spiritual qualities. The costumes and ornaments of this group are unostentatious. The bulging skirts, the big overcoats and the huge headgears of the characters of the other groups are conspicuously absent in the case of *Minukku* characters. Female characters (except *takshasis*), Brahmins, *vishis* and servants or menials fall in this group.

The technique of the art of *Kathakali* developed considerably through the years at the hands of the gifted people of all Alleppey. Several Organisations devoted to the promotion of this art have functioned in this District at different periods. One of the earliest in the field was the Muthur Kathakali Yogam which functioned vigorously during the reign of Kartika Thirunal Rama Varma Raj (1758-1798). This Yogam was the recruiting ground for the main actors to the Valia kottaram Kathali Yogam attached to the erstwhile Travancor Durbar. Among the other Kathakali Yogams of the District may be mentioned the Kirikkad Thoppil Kathakali Yogam, Takazhi Kathakali Yogam and Karipuzha Kathakali Yogam, each of which has contributed to the development of art form in *Kathakali*. *Kathakoli* is an even an important item of offering (*vazhipadu*) in the famous Sri Vallabha temple of Tiruvalla. The largest number of celebrated *Kathakali* artistes from Kerala belong to the Alleppey District. The pioneer among them Kavalam Kochunarayana Panicker (1797-1865). His role of the Santanagopala Brahmin and Nyrada won general acclaim. In the long galaxy of Kathakali artistes from this District may be mentioned Karithra Ram Panicker (1826-1883), Ayikkara Narayana Kartha (1852-1903), Ambulapuzha Kunjurishna Panicker (1838-1910), Champakkulam Sanku Pillai (1835-1903), Takazhi Kunju Pillai (1859-1917), Tiruvalla Sanku Pillai (1847-1896), Takazhi Kochunilakanta Pillai (1855-1931), Tiruvalla Kunju Pillai (1858-1920), Karipuzha Velu Pillai (1860-1928), Chennithala Kochipilla Panicker (1865-1948), Mathur Kunjupillai Panicker (1873-1929), Champakulam Paramu Pillai (1883-1926), Tattam Sankaran Nambuthiri (Guru of Udayasankar, the

famous dancer) (1880-1939) and Turavur Madhavan Pillai (1875-1956). Among living *Kathakali* celebrities from this District may be mentioned Chengannur Ramon Pillai, Manikulam Vishnu Nambuthiri, Champakulam Pachu pillai, Gurn Kunju Kurup and Guru Gopinath. The last two are recipients of the President's Award for the best actors in *Kathakali*.

Kuthu and *Kutiyattam* have been prevalent in the important temples of this District since their inception. *Kuthu* is a performance in which a single actor, viz., the Chakiar expounds *Puranic* stories. His exposition is characterised throughout by humour and sarcasm. In *Kutiyattam* two or more Chakiars appear on the stage at the same time as in the modern drama. Both the arts are performed in *Kuthambalams* which are specially erected for the purpose in all important temples. The story of the quarrel between the Chakiar and Kunjan Nambiar at Ambalapuzha which gave the way for the emergence of the new art form known as *Ottam Tullal* is sufficient proof of the important role played by Alleppey District in the evolution of the art of Chakiar *Kuthu* in ancient times. The *Natakasala* in Ambalapuzha temple in Kerala possesses such an apartment by name *Natakasala*. The oval-shaped *Kuthambalam* in Chengannur temple is the only one of its kind in Kerala. It is now in ruins, though the basement is still preserved for the temple *prakara*. The *Kuthambalam* in Haripad temple is also a notable structure.

Ottam Tullal is a typical temple art of Kerala whose origin is associated with Alleppey District. It is a kind of solo dance in which one actor, adorning colour costumes as in *Kathakali*, recites dance (*Tullal*) songs to the accompaniment of acting and dancing. The origin of *Ottam Tullal* is traced to a unhappy incident which is alleged to have taken place in the *Natakasala* at Ambalapuzha towards the end of the 13th century. The story goes that Kunjan Nambiar who was beating *Micahru* or drum during a performance of *Chakiar-kuthu* produced a wrong note and invited a sharp rebuke from the Chakiar in the presence of the whole audience. Nambiar was so much annoyed at this public censure of his mistake that he immediately set to work on a fresh form of entertainment. When the Chakiar began his *Kuthu* the next day, Nambiar engaged himself in his first performance of *Tullal* not far from the place where his old master performed the *Kuthu*. The novel entertainment fascinated the people so much that they left the Chakiar en-bloc and came to see Nambiar's *Tullal*.

The story is not accepted by all as a convincing explanation of the origin of *Ottam Tullal*. Ullur S. Parameswara Ayyar believes

that *Ottam Tullal* perhaps originated from an attempt which had started even earlier to provide entertainment to non-Brahmin audiences who were denied admission to *Kuthambalam*s where *Kuthu* and *Kutiyattam* were performed.¹ In the Sastha temple at Takazhi, not far from the Ambalapuzha temple, a festival known as *Patayani* was being performed for the first 12 days of Medom (April-May) from very early days. During the *Patayani* festival certain special types of dances were performed in this temple mainly with a view to providing entertainment to the more unsophisticated and less literate sections of the people. Two of these performances were called *Sitankam Tullal* and *Parayan Tullal*. *Ottam Tullal* developed by Nambiar was an improvement on these two earlier forms. "*Ottam Tullal* is vigorous in execution, *Setankam* narrative, and *Parayan*, pathetic. In contrast to the picturesque appearance of the player in *Ottam Tullal*, is the player in *Setankam*. His face is unpainted, except for a few black lines to heighten the expression of the eyes; he wears a crown of the tender leaves of the coconut palm, with frills of the same material adorning his waist. Both *Setankam* and *Parayan* are the earlier and less common forms."² Since the days of Kunjan-Nambiar *Ottam Tullal* developed as the most popular folk art prevalent in the temples of Kerala, providing entertainment and amusement to large sections of people. The symbols and gestures employed in *Kathakali* find a place in *Ottam Tullal* also. In it the player acts many parts, the acting being accompanied by his own singing. There are an attendant musician in the background who gives the lead to the actor, another plays on the *Maddalam* or elongated drum and yet another keep the *Tham* or rhythm with a pair of cymbals.

In addition to the above, there are also other religious festivities and temple arts like *patakam*, *Harikatha* and *Gitam*. *Patakam* is the simpler form of *Kuthu* in which a single actor expounds *puranic* stories. *Harikatha* performance has in recent times taken the place of *Patakam*. The former has more musical overtones than the latter and hence is more popular. The *Kuthaprasangam* of recent days is a modified form of *Harikatha* and it has social and secular themes for its performance. *Gitam* is the practice of singing devotional songs before the deities in important temples to the

1 Kerala Sahitya Charitram VOL. III, Uthoor S. Parameswara Iyer, pp. 398-400

2 Folk Plays and Dances of Kerala. M.D. Raghavan. p.19

accompaniment of *Edakka* which is considered as a *Nevadyam*. Verses of *Ashtapadi* (Jayadeva's *Gita Govindam*) are sung along with compositions of Dikshitar, Swati Tirunal and others. The *Depakazhcha* or illumination is also an important festivity connected with temple *Utsavamz* in the District. The *Dipakazhcha* on the last day of the festival in the Kanichukulangara temple in the month of Kumbham (February-March) is particularly attractive.

Two other festivities associated with this District are the *Velakali* and *Kuttrakkettu*. The *Velakali* is a mock fight played on occasions of festivals in the temples of the District, particularly in Shertallai and Ambalapuzha. It may be seen at its best at the latter place, where it is played under the guidance of Mathur-Panikar, the hereditary Asan and Minister of Chempakasseri Raja's family. The mock fight in *Velakali* is believed by some to be a representation of the battle of Kurusbetra between the *Pundavas* and the *Kauravas*. It is also played at Trivandrum during the annual *Utsavams* in the Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple. The following is a description of the *Velakali*. The play commences with a flourish of trumpets and kettle drums, corresponding to a call at arms. In a few minutes each house sends forth its men, well armed and equipped to the field. Clad in an underwear of a sheet of long and narrow cloth tied tight round the waist reaching up to the knee so as to leave the legs free, with a triangular piece of red cloth fringed with small silver knobs and dots hanging over the waist cloth, and a headgear to match, of red cloth tied into an elongated knot on the right side and adorned with silver lace, the *Velakalilaran* presents a spectacular sight. He wears a string of golden beads on the neck and a tie on each hand round the biceps. Caste marks in sandal paste are worn on the forehead, breast and arms, and the eyes brightened with black dye. Equipped with a shield held in the left hand, and a blunt sword on the right, the fight begins. At the call of the trumpet, the players gather round the flag. A number of pennons, large and small of various shades and designs, some made of silver and gold, recalling the colours of the various corps in former times, are unfurled and wave beautifully in the rays of the evening sun. The band, which consists of the horn of *Kombu*, the clarion or *Kurumkuzhal* the kettle-drum or *Thappu* and *Maddalam*, begins to sound the mustering tune, and its dissonant din awakens the drooping spirits of these warriors. No sooner do they assemble and form themselves into line, than the march is sounded.

The younger ones form the front, the elders bring up the rear, with the flag bearers forming the rearmost line. This mock army is accompanied by dummies of animals, birds used in olden times for military purposes, such as the swans, oxen etc. Those borne on shoulders come last. In this array the army marches from its place of encampment (now a banyan tree) to the battle field (now the front courtyard of the temple). There it takes its stand. The advancing force performs the tactics of a combined attack marching in full column against the enemy. The symbolic fight lasts for an hour, during which time the players prance like spirited steeds and jump and dance about and around the Pandava dummies. The Pandavas being the victors, the Kauravas at the end of the offensive, retreat in a stampede up the temple steps. The players also give exhibitions of single combats. Two of the young warriors step to the front, and to the tune of music perform feats with the sword and shield and show their skill in fencing. They then retire and fall into line. Another pair take the field and go through similar exercises."¹

Kutirakettu or *Kettukazhcha* is an impressive festivity associated with temple *Utsavams* in certain parts of the Alleppey District, particularly in the Mavelikara, Chengannur and Kuttanad Taluks. The most important of these festivals are held in the temples of Chettikulangara and Mavelikara. There are equally impressive *Kettukazhcha* festivals in the temples at Nilamperur, Pantalain and Thattayil. A feature of the *Kettukazhcha* festival is that people from different *Karas* adjoining the temple bring huge *rathams* or cars varying from 25 to 150 feet in height. The smaller ones among these *rathams* are called *teru* and the bigger ones *Kutira*. These are usually made of bamboos or coconut wood and decorated with white cloth and coloured silks. The *teru* has several storeys which give it the appearance of a huge temple. The images or pictures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses are kept inside it. The smaller cars are carried by the people on their shoulders while the bigger ones are drawn by people on four wheels. All the people of the locality co-operate in making the cars and in taking them in procession to the main shrine. The different *terus* coming from the different *Karas* assemble on the four sides of the temple compound and are then taken round the temple in *pradakshinam*. The *Kettukazhcha* festival described above

1 Folk plays and Dances of Kerala M. D. Raghavan, pp. 46-47.

is alleged to bear traces of Buddhist influences. It is said that there is a very close resemblance between it and the Buddhist festival which Fahien, the Chinese traveller of the 5th century A. D., witnessed in the city of Patalinutra.

Mention may also be made in this connection of the special performance known as *Tukkam*. Though not a pastime of festivity in the strict sense of the term, *Tukkam* is an important *nercha* or offering in some of the Bhagavathi temples of the District which attracts a large number of spectators even today. The term '*Tukkam*' literally means 'hook-swinging.' It is an act of self-mortification indulged in by a person in fulfilment of vows made by him to Goddess Kali in order to propitiate her and gain her favours. As a preparation for the performance of the act the performer has to undergo strict penance for a period of 41 days during which period he has to attend the temple every morning after bath and worship the Goddess. He has also to abstain from animal food, intoxicants and association with women during this period. It is also the practice to rub the body with oil every morning in order that it is made ready for the hook. There are two kinds of *Tukkam* viz. '*Garudan tukkam* or kite swinging and *Toni tukkam* or boat swinging. The following is a description of *Tukkam*. "... a sort of car is constructed which will rest on two axles with four wheels. On this is set up a horizontal beam resting on two vertical supports. The hook which is inserted through the integument on the back of the performer is connected with a ring attached to the beam by means of a strong rope. He is then raised or hauled up. Over the beam there is a small decorated roofing made, and beneath this the performer swings. In some parts this arrangement is simplified by having only a small pole on which rests a horizontal beam provided with a metallic ring at one end. The beam acts as a lever so that one end of it can be either raised or lowered so as to give some rest to the swinger. The rope tied to the ring is connected with the hook and the waist band of the performer. For boat-swinging the same kind of apparatus is used only that it is not set up on wheels."¹ It may be noted that the performer in the *Garudan tukkam* has to paint his face green, with a red coloured beak resembling that of the kite, attached to his mouth. He also provides himself with artificial wings so as to look like the bird *Garuda* or the *Brahmin*

1 History of Kerala Vol. IV, K. P. Padmanabha Menon, pp. 345-46.

kite. In *Toni tukkam* the performer does not wear the false wings and the beak. However, in both cases he carries a sword and shield in each hand and flourishes the same while swinging. The *Tukkam* is not a very popular pastime as the performer suffers from excruciating pain in the process. It is also done by proxy by paid professionals engaged by the person who has taken the vow. Among the temples of the Alleppey District where *Tukkam*, particularly *Garudan Tukkam*, is still performed may be mentioned those of Kanichukulangara, Mitrakari and Waranad.

Among the characteristic festivals of Alleppey District the *Vallamkali* or boat regatta deserves special mention. The most famous boat regattas of Kerala are held here during the Onam season in Chingam (August—September). The Champakulam *Vallamkali* held on *Mulam* day and the Aranmula *Vallamkali* held on *Utharattati* day in Chingam (August—September) have a religious origin and character, but people of all castes and creeds participate in these festivals with the utmost enthusiasm. The Paylpad *Jalolsavam* and the *Vallamkali* in Evur *Punja* are important celebrations in the Karthikapally Taluk. The former is held during the Onam season in Chingam (August—September) and the latter in connection with the *Karkkaki Sankaranthi*. The *Uthram Vallamkali* held at Kanjipadam in Ambalapuzha village in Chingam (August—September) is unique in so far as Harijans are the main participants in it. The Nirettupuram *Vallamkali* held in Nedumpuram village (Tiruvalla Taluk) on Tiru Onam day in Chingam (August—September) attracts huge crowds from all parts of the locality. But the most colourful and spectacular of the boat regattas is held at Vattakkayal or Punnamadakkayal for the award of the Prime Minister's Trophy in connection with the celebration of Independence Day in August. The celebration is held annually to commemorate the visit of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Alleppey from Kottayam through water logged Kuttanad in December 1952. The presence of innumerable canals and rivers in this District accounts for the conduct of such a large number of boat regattas. The boat regattas are of two kinds. While some like the *Vallamkali* at Aranmula are only impressive processions, others like those of Champakulam and Vattakkayal (Prime Minister's Trophy Boat race) are competitions. Boats of various shapes and sizes participate in the boat regattas. The special type used in the game is the Snake-boat or the *Chundanvallam*. Each of these boats is 50 to 100 feet long and is manned by 100 to 200 rowers and one helmsman. The

body of the boat floats on the surface of the water. One end is tapered and lies on the surface while the other rises to about 15 feet from the water level. Each boat contains a party of musicians who sing traditional boat songs (*Vanchi pattus*). The rowers time their strokes according to this chanting. Each of the boats is given a particular name (Eg:—*Parthasarathi*, *J.P. Kennedy*, *Kavalam* etc.) and those which come out successful in the competitive races are awarded trophies and prizes.

PUBLIC GAMES AND RECREATION CLUBS

Among the traditional sports and pastimes prevalent in this District may be mentioned *Pandukali*, (native football), *Sittukali* (card play) and *Chaturangam* (Chess). *Kutliyumkolum* is an out-door game played by boys with sticks. Among the other children's games may be mentioned *Vattukali*, *Golikali* and *Kallukali* which are played with stones. *Kilithattukali* and *Pulikali* are out door games which give plenty of exercise to the boys. In all these games children range themselves into two rival parties and considerable excitement is caused as the games proceed. *Tiruvathirkali*, *Koladi* (a game with sticks), *Unjalattam* (swinging), and *Nintal* (swimming) may also be included among the traditional games and pastimes. Of these the *Tiruvathirkali* is essentially a feminine pastime indulged in by young girls during the *Tiruvathira* season. It is a kind of dance play accompanied by acting, singing and hand-clapping.

In recent times many of the traditional pastimes and sports mentioned above have lost their appeal. Modern games like football, basket-ball, badminton, cricket, hockey, etc. have become popular. Athletic associations and sports clubs function in all parts of the District and also in all schools and colleges with a view to providing encouragement to such sports and games. Among the most important of such organisations functioning in this District mention may be made of the S. M. R. V. club, Alleppey, Athletic Association, Alleppey, Alleppey United Club, Alleppey, Alleppey Town Club, Alleppey, the Brothers Club, Alleppey, the Triumph Sports Club, Alleppey, Rama Varma District Club, Alleppey, Y. M. C. A. Tennis Club, Alleppey, Kerala State Transport Volley-Ball Club, Alleppey, Y. M. A. Badminton Club, Kayamkulam, Pamba Staff Recreation Club, Tiruvalla, the Town Club, Ambalapuzha, the Hanuman Vyayama Mandiram, Alleppey and the Yogic Physical Cultural Association, Champakulam. Most of these organizations function under the guidance of the Kerala Sports Council which has

a district unit in Alleppey. Apart from providing encouragement to out-door games, some of these associations also provide facilities for in-door games such as carroms, table-tennis, etc. In addition to modern sports and games the cinema and the drama also provide opportunities for entertainment and recreation to the common people. There are cinema theatres in almost all urban and semi-urban areas of the District. The K. P. A. C. (Kerala People's Arts Club) which has its headquarters at Kayamkulam is one of the most important professional troupes of Kerala which has staged some of the most popular dramatic performances both inside and outside the State.

PILGRIM CENTRES

Some of the most important pilgrim centres of Kerala are situated in the Alleppey District. The Vishnu temples at Ambalapuzha, Trichittat, Tripuliyur, Tiruvaranmula, Tiruvalla and Tiruvannandur are considered to be amongst the most sacred Vaishnava shrines by the Hindus and thousands of pilgrims visit these places throughout the year. Of the above Tiruvannandur has shot into the limelight in recent years with the installation of the newly unearthed image of Gosalakrishna in a separate shrine near the old Vishnu temple. The Siva temple at Tiruvizha is visited by pilgrims mainly because of the importance attached to the special medicinal decoction given to mental patients as *Prasadam* from the temple for the cure of mental diseases. The Sastha temple of Takuzhi is also visited by the Hindus because of the sacredness attached to the oil known as *Valia Enna* which is given to patients suffering from various physical and mental ailments. The Siva temples at Kavivur, Tirukoratti, Chengannur and Kandiur are also visited by the Hindus and the *Sivaratri* celebration in these temples is particularly important. The Bhagavati temples at Shertalai, Kanchukulangara, Chettikulangara, Kidankanparambu and Mullakkal are also sacred to the Hindus and the annual *utsavams* or *chirappus* in these places attract enormous crowds. The Subramonia temple at Haripad and the Naga shrines at Mannarsala and Vettikkode are also visited by devout Hindus in large numbers.

Among the important Christian centres of pilgrimage the St. George's Church, Edithwa and the St. Andrew's Forane Church, Arathunkai, are the most important. The former is visited by Catholics from all over the state and outside during the annual *Perunnal* which takes place from April 27 to May 7 in Medam and

the latter on the occasion of the feast of St. Sebastian on January 20, every year. The annual *Perumal* on the 15th August in the Pallipuram Church, one of the seven churches believed to have been founded by St. Thomas, the Apostle, is also well attended. The feast of the Immaculate conception of Our Lady celebrated at the St. Thomas Church, Tambol, three miles north of Alleppey is another notable festival. It lasts for eleven days, ending on December 8 and attracts enormous crowds. The Orthodox Syrian Church at Cheppad is a place of pilgrimage for devout Orthodox Syrian Christians as the mortal remains of Cheppad Mar Dionosius IV, a former Maiankara Metropolitan, are interred in this Church. The Orthodox Syrian Church at Niranam, yet another of the seven Churches believed to have been founded by St. Thomas, the Apostle is also important to the Orthodox Syrians.

ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CLASSES IN RELATION TO SOCIAL LIFE

Economic and professional classes have come to play a decisive role in the public life of Kerala in recent times. They have superseded the traditional classes based on the caste status of the individual and the extent of the landed property owned by him. The prestige value of both caste and land has undergone a steep decline in recent decades. The progress of western education, the activities of Christian Missions and social reformers, the large scale entry of the members of the lower castes into the public services and the learned professions, the decline of untouchability, the introduction of adult franchise, the progress of industrialisation the increasing pace of urbanisation etc. led to the breakdown of the old social order based on caste. Moreover, old institutions like the joint family, the *Marumakkathayam* system etc, also broke up and led to the large scale exodus of young men of old *Taravads* from rural areas to urban areas inside and outside the District. They came under the liberal influence of new economic and social forces. Moreover, the land reforms introduced one after the other since the 19th century century tended to confer more and more rights on the tenants and to deprive the land owners of most of their control over the former. Consequently the land owner has ceased to have the same old fascination for land. This has led to the emergence of new society in which economic and professional classes hold a dominant position. In short, the old values and incentives based on caste, agriculture and land holdings have given place to new values and incentives based on industry, commerce and education in this District as elsewhere in Kerala.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Introduction

Alleppey is the smallest District of Kerala with only a total geographical area of 461,568 acres. It is seen that 85.7% of this area is sown with some crop or other. According to the Census of 1961 out of a total population of 1,811,252 persons in the District 610,425 are workers. It may be noted that 37.09% of these workers are engaged in agriculture either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers.

Land Utilisation

Table I gives the classification of land area in the District.

Category	1957-58		1960-61		1961-65	
	Area in acres	% to the total area	Area in acres	% to the total area	Area in acres	% to the total area
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Total area according to Village papers	461,568	100	461,568	100	461,568	100
Forests	1,268	0.27	1,268	0.27	1,268	0.27
Land put to non-agricultural uses	25,502	5.53	25,276	5.48	27,846	6.03
Barren & uncultivable land	11,978	2.59	6,866	1.49	4,300	0.93
Permanent pastures and other grazing land	2,103	0.45	1,180	0.26	670	0.15
Land under Miscellaneous tree crops not included in the area sown	12,337	2.67	12,315	2.67	22,597	4.90

Cultivable waste	10,320	2.24	7,041	1.53	6,340	1.37
Fallow lands other than current fallow	4,059	0.88	2,375	0.51	1,138	0.25
Current fallow	3,724	0.81	14,666	3.18	1,579	0.34
Net area sown	390,279	84.56	390,581	84.61	395,828	85.76
Area sown more than once	96,667	20.94	157,743	34.13	147,262	31.90
Total cropped area	486,946	105.50	548,324	118.80	544,130	117.66

It may be seen from the above figures that in 1960-61 there is a considerable increase in the area sown more than once over that of 1957-58 and a subsequent fall in 1964-65 over that of 1960-61. This is reflected in the total cropped area also.

CULTIVABLE WASTE

Table II shows the Taluk-wise distribution of waste lands according to the finding of the "Cultivable Waste Land Survey" conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics in the District in 1959-60.

TABLE II

Taluk-wise distribution of waste lands
(Area in acres)

	Karthi- kapally	Maveli- kara	Chenga- nur	Thiru- valla	Kutta-Ambala- nad	Sher- puzha	Sher- tallai
Total area of the Taluk	57,790	70,030	47,737	83,785	68,087	62,484	78,912
All waste lands@	1,748 (3.02)	1,375 (1.96)	302 (0.61)	2,013 (2.39)	778 (1.13)	484 (0.91)	794 (1.01)
Current fallow*	760 (1.32)	60 (0.88)	127 (0.26)	58 (0.06)	653 (0.96)	5 (0.01)	22 (0.03)
Other fallow*	43 (0.07)	43 (0.06)	34 (0.07)	98 (0.12)	20 (0.02)	7 (0.01)	47 (0.39)
Cultivable waste*	78 (0.13)	817 (1.17)	71 (0.14)	1,732 (2.06)	92 (0.13)	274 (0.52)	313 (0.37)

Uncultivable	867	455	70	125	13	198	412
waste*	(1.50)	(0.65)	(0.14)	(0.15)	(0.02)	(0.37)	(0.53)

LAND RECLAMATION

Kuttanad the rice-bowl of the District is 'a supreme example of land reclamation from water through the ages'. The reclamation of land from the Vembanad lake for purposes of paddy cultivation has been tried successfully in this area on a fairly extensive scale. The history of the efforts at land reclamation in water-logged Kuttanad goes back to the early decades of the 19th century. The project was originally started under private auspices. "A remarkable feature of Kayal cultivation in Kuttanad is that, unlike land reclamation elsewhere, it was essentially a private enterprise, a classic example, of entrepreneurial innovation". The State Government also took some interest in the reclamation work but the quantum of State assistance had been extremely meagre. One of the earliest schemes for land reclamation implemented under the auspices of the State was the Kainakari Embankment Scheme which had the object of protecting the fields in Kainakari in Kuttanad from the ingress of salt water from the Vembanad lake. The schemes for land reclamation in Kuttanad aimed at bringing more and more land under the rice crop and improving the yield of the existing rice fields by preventing the ingress of salt water from the lakes and seas and directing the flow of fresh water from the rivers to the fields.

The authors of the *Land Reclamation in Kerala* give a detailed account of the history of land reclamation projects in Kuttanad. The pioneer in the field was one Travi Kesava Panicker who belonged to the aristocratic Chalayil family. He formulated an ambitious programme to reclaim that portion of the Vembanad lake which was situated at the mouth of the Chennankari river. The project was ambitious in so far as it involved the diversion of the course of the river which about 30 feet deep at that point. A barrier was erected

@Figures given within brackets denote the percentages to the total area of the Taluk.

*Figures given within brackets denote the percentages to the total area under "All Waste lands".

1. *Land Reclamation in Kerala*, V: R. Pillai and P.K.G. Panicker P. 26.
2. Ibid, P. 21.

across the river at its mouth by the local labourers with indigenous materials. "Whole stems of coconut trees were piled in two rows on the bed of the stream. A broad corridor which was formed in this manner was cemented with garbage, river sand and clay and it emerged as a bund. The ring bund rising from under the water was like a dream come true. It was indeed a remarkable engineering feat, though a risky and extensive operation. Mr. Panikkar had evolved a technique of bunding eminently suited to private individuals with limited resources and this is being followed in this region to this day". The pioneering efforts of Panikkar, however, roused local opposition. The Diwan Peishkar Raja Rama Rao who made an on-the-spot study of Panikkar's project exonerated him and even blessed his efforts at land reclamation. The block which Panikkar eventually reclaimed out of the Vembanad lake and put to cultivation was called *Attumattu Kayal* indicating that it was reclaimed by bunding a river. Emboldened by the success of his initial efforts Panikkar carried out other reclamation schemes also. One of the blocks which he had so reclaimed was named *Rama Rajapuram* after the Diwan Peishkar Raja Rama Rao while his last block named *Mathikayal* to indicate his own personal satisfaction at the successful completion of his schemes and his desire to retire from such efforts in future.

The successful experiments of Chalayil Kesava Panikkar helped to convince the local public of the immense potentialities of Kayal cultivation. It may be noted that the reclamation of land from water was more economic at the time than the purchase of cultivable rice fields as the cost of reclamation was much lower than the prevailing purchase price of Rs. 500 to 700 which had to be paid for every acre of rice field. The example of the early pioneers was followed by several other enterprising agriculturists in later days, the most notable among them being Kalathil Anthony Mappila and Chirayil Thomman Mappilla. By the beginning of the 20th century about 5,500 acres had been reclaimed from the Vembanad lake. Reclamation work was, however, stopped in 1903 in deference to the wishes of the Government of Madras who expressed fear that Vembanad Reclamation would adversely affect the development of the Cochin port. After protracted correspondence and several conferences the ban on reclamation activities in the

1 Land Reclamation in Kerala, P. 16.

Kuttanad area was withdrawn in 1912. The efforts at reclamation were thereafter continued with greater enthusiasm. The scarcity of foodgrains during the Second World War and the Grow More Food campaign served to give a momentum to the work. The most outstanding figure in the recent history of Vembanad reclamation is the Punja magnate, Thomas Murikkan, who reclaimed about 2,340 acres. On the whole 20,000 acres of Vembanad lake had been brought under the plough by 1945.

R. BLOCK RECLAMATION SCHEME

The State Government have been taking active interest in land reclamation work in Kuttanad in recent years. The most important of the reclamation schemes undertaken under State auspices is the R. Block Reclamation scheme. The lands in Kuttanad are about 4 to 6 ft. below mean sea level and are cultivated only with one paddy crop. Of these about 12,000 acres constitute the reclamation area in the southern tip of the Vembanad lake which has been split up into 13 blocks for convenience. The main characteristic of these fields is that being about 4 to 6 ft. below M.S.L., they will invariably have 6 to 8 ft. of water at the time of the commencement of the agricultural operations. The area of each block varies from 300 to 2,300 acres. The blocks are provided with ordinary clay bund along the boundaries. These bunds are formed by the ryots and are subjected to breach and erosion during every monsoon. Considerable amount has therefore to be spent annually by the ryots. Any major breach of the bund during crop period results in complete loss of the crop. Preventive measures for these breaches etc. have been under the consideration of the Government for a long time and a Pilot Scheme was sanctioned for one of the 13 blocks mentioned above. The block so selected is the 'R' Block in Kainakari Village and hence the name 'R' Block Reclamation Scheme.

The R. Block Reclamation scheme costing Rs. 19 lakhs provides for the construction of a strong bund with stiff clay on the boundary of the block in the place of the originally weak clay bund. The outer face of this bund was protected with granite retaining wall. The outer bunds of this block are 6½ miles long all around and cover an area of 1,540 acres. A large number of electric pumps have been erected for dewatering the area before starting cultivation and for pumping out the seepage water.

The R. Block Reclamation scheme was implemented under the programme for Land Development. It not only helps the usual *punja* crop to be harvested successfully without fear of breach of bunds etc., but also enables one additional earlier crop to be taken. The entire cost of the scheme was initially met by the Government, but 75% it is treated as loan to the ryots repayable by them in 15 equated annual instalments at 4½% interest and the remaining 25% is given as subsidy. The scheme has been practically completed and the first additional crop on part of the land was taken successfully in May-September 1963.

KAYAMKULAM KAYAL RECLAMATION SCHEME

Another important reclamation scheme of the District is the Kayamkulam Reclamation scheme. Kayamkulam Kayal is a waterway for boat movement from north to the south. There is a lock to the north of the Kayal which prevents saline intrusion into the northern cultivated area. The south of the Kayal is open to the sea and there is a bar for some distance across the Kayal. The problem of reclamation of the Kayal includes the problem of prevention of saline intrusion in summer and availability of fresh water during summer for cultivation.

The area taken up for reclamation lies in the Arattupuzha Panchayat, Karthikapally Taluk. The area involved is about 800 acres lying between Vettathukadavu landing in the south and Pulikizh landing in the north on the eastern side of the Kayamkulam lake. A bund of about 14,000' in length and about 4½' to 5' in height has already been constructed enclosing the said area. The only substantial flow of fresh water to the reclamation will be through the Danapadi Canal which is a branch of the Pumba river. The Danapadi Canal runs into Kayamkulam lake and during summer months saline water intrudes into this canal from the lake. With the construction of a lock in the Danapadi canal mouth the problem of salt water intrusion can be solved and navigation rendered possible. This would also facilitate the supply of fresh irrigation water. Considering the availability of irrigation water and the weather conditions, it may be possible to cultivate the reclaimed area from July to December.

The main proposals for the reclamation are (a) construction of bund to separate the reclaimed area from the rest of the Kayal. The bund is approximately 14,000' in length. A bund 5' top width and ½ to 1' side slope is to be formed with solid Kayal clay and protected

by split coconut stakes and bamboo splits (b) Extension of the south bund of the Danapadi Canal to meet this bund, (c) Construction of a lock in the Danapadikal canal to permit navigation through this canal, (d) Widening of bund at intervals to permit colonisation and provide retting pools, (e) protection of the Kayal face with D.R. work after the bund has settled (f) Installation of local type pump sets for keeping the area dewatered, (g) provision of irrigation sluices to admit water and to permit leaching of the area. The work is in progress, items a, b, c and e having been completed.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDING

The uneconomic size of agricultural holdings is a problem in this District as elsewhere in the State, the average size of a holding being only 65 hectares (1.6 acres). The survey undertaken by the Special Deputy Collector for Consolidation of Holdings in Kerala in 1962 in the Ramankari village of the District throws some light on the nature of fragmentation of holdings¹. The position of the distribution of holdings in this village with reference to the size of the holdings and number of registered holders is given in the

TABLE III

Size of holdings	Number of holdings	Percentage	Area of holdings	Percentage
Total	1,688	100.00	2,222.29	100.00
Below 50 cents	1,025	60.73	170.40	7.65
50 cents to 1 acre	222	13.16	151.23	6.79
1 acre to 2 acres	184	10.91	161.61	11.79
2 acres to 5 acres	156	9.24	490.68	22.09
5 acres to 10 acres	68	4.03	472.24	21.24
10 acres to 15 acres	14	0.82	167.35	7.51
15 acres to 20 acres	10	0.59	181.60	7.28
20 acres to 25 acres	3	0.27	63.80	2.88
25 acres to 30 acres	1	0.16	28.60	1.30
Above 30 acres	5	0.29	254.78	11.47

Of the 1,688 registered holders, 1,025 (60.73%) hold only less than 50 cents, the total area under their possession being 170.40 acres, or 7.65% of the total area. Holdings between 50 cents and

¹ Report on Consolidation of Holdings, p. 239.

1 acre come an easy second, their number being 222 (13.16%) and their area being 151.23 acres (6.79%). The class of holdings which claims the maximum area is that constituted by holdings between 2 acres and five acres, their number being 156 (9.24%) and their area 490.68 acres (22.9%). The average size of a holding is 1.32 acres. The obvious conclusion which one can arrive at is that Ramankari is a village of small holdings and small holders.

The distribution of holdings with reference to paddy lands was made the subject of special study in the context of the possibilities for consolidation of wet lands. It was seen that in Ramankari village the size of paddy holdings was bigger and the proportion of wet lands to garden lands was higher. According to the estimate prepared by the Village Officer there are 398 land holders possessing and cultivating paddy lands either directly or indirectly. This distinction is significant because only very few of them are registered. They have come into possessions of lands which they hold at present either by inheritance, purchase, written or oral agreements or other means. The area under such occupation is 1,913.85 acres. The distribution of wet lands with reference to size of the holdings and their number is given in Table IV.

TABLE IV

Size of holdings	Number of holdings	Percentage	Area of holdings A. C.	Percentage
Total	398	100.00	1,913.85	100.00
Less than 50 cents	24	6.04	7.68	0.40
50 cents to 1 acre	55	13.82	41.14	2.15
1 acre to 5 acres	200	50.25	472.68	24.70
5 acres to 10 acres	79	19.85	565.75	29.56
10 acres to 20 acres	29	7.29	385.19	20.13
20 acres to 30 acres	4	1.00	96.08	5.02
30 acres to 40 acres	4	1.00	133.28	6.96
40 acres to 50 acres	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
50 acres to 60 acres	1	0.25	53.38	2.79
60 acres to 70 acres	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
70 acres to 80 acres	1	0.25	73.07	3.82
80 acres to 90 acres	1	0.25	83.60	4.47

It can be seen that (6.04%) of the holdings covering an area of 0.40% are less than 50 cents in extent. The percentage of holdings of less than 5 acres in extent is 70.11 and they cover 27.25% of the total area. The class of holdings which claims the maximum percentage according to the number is constituted by those between 1 acre and 5 acres, their number being 260 (50.25%). They are spread over an area of 472.68 acres or 24.70%. The class of holdings which claims the maximum area is that between 5 acres and 10 acres, their number being 79 (19.85%), and area 565.75 acres (29.56%). The average size of a paddy holding in the village is (4.81) acres.

It may also be mentioned here that the large size of the holdings in the Kuttanad area of the District stands out in striking contrast to that of the rest of the State. While 90 percent of the holdings in Kerala are below 2.5, an equal proportion of holdings in the Kayal area of Kuttanad are above 25 acres. The Sample Survey conducted during the course of the Farm Management investigation in the District of Alleppey yielded the following results in regard to the distribution of selected holdings in the Kayal area of Kuttanad by size¹.

TABLE V

Distribution of Selected holdings in the Kayal area of Kuttanad by size

Area in acres	Holdings	
	No.	Percentage
All	40	100.00
0—10	2	5
11—25	2	5
26—40	6	15
41—60	8	20
61—100	12	30
100—250	6	15
251—500	3	7.5
501 and above	1	2.5

IRRIGATION

Irrigation plays an important role in the agriculture of the District in so far as cultivation mainly depends upon channels and

1. The Land Reclamation in Kerala, V. R. Pillai, and P.G.K. Panikkar, P. 48

channel fed tanks. Even though the District is favoured with heavy rainfall, the distribution of the same is very often uneven and the monsoons are mostly untimely. This fact was recognised by the Government as early as the last decade of the 19th century and state assistance to irrigation began from that time. But the state assistance given by the Irrigation Maramath Department of erstwhile Travancore State was mostly confined to the southern Taluks of the State which now fall within the Kanyakumari District of Madras State. In 1922 an Irrigation Sub-division was formed with headquarters at Changancherry (Kottayam District) with a view to exploring the possibilities of improving irrigation facilities. The existing arrangement under which the restoration and repair of tanks and channels and bunds were left for the most part to the ryots themselves did not work well owing to lack of co operation among the ryots. With a view to helping the ryots the Government sanctioned an annual grant of Rs.30,000 in 1886 for the Northern and Quilon Divisions. The grant was to be expended on irrigation and drainage channels. The money spent was made recoverable from the ryots along with the tax. This arrangement also did not serve the purpose for which it was intended. The above rules were subsequently superseded by Regulation III of 1072 (1896 - 97) which provided for the construction, repair and maintenance of irrigation works and for the conservation and distribution of water for purposes of irrigation. The administration Report of Travancore State for the year reads, "This important measure adopted after much deliberation and discussion brings the interests of agriculture throughout the State under a regulated system of even treatment in respect of irrigation with due regard to local conditions". Consequently, a series of very important irrigation works were completed by the P.W.D. and they included the Kainakari Embankment scheme of this District to which reference has already been made.

KUTTANAD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The claims of irrigation in Alleppey District have received the special attention of Government in recent times. Among the Major irrigation works in the District the most outstanding is the Kuttanad Development Scheme. The Kuttanad region comprising an area of 337.4 sq. miles has 121,128 acres (189.2 sq. miles) of paddy fields, 31 sq. miles of lake area and about 117 sq. miles of garden lands. As stated earlier, the paddy fields in Kuttanad are very much below the sea level. Owing to the monsoon floods and tidal inflow damages to cultivation occur every year either by flood submergence or by

intrusion of salinity in the inland water courses. The average annual damage to paddy crops in Kuttanad is estimated to result in loss of production of 33,460 tonnes of paddy. Under the Kuttanad Development Scheme it was proposed to eliminate these damages by the construction of the Salt Water Barrier at Tannirmukkam to arrest tidal influx and a Spillway channel with flood regulators at Tottappalli to discharge the floods into the sea. The work on the Tottappalli Spillway was taken up as the 1st stage of the Kuttanad Development Scheme and the Spillway was commissioned in May 1955 and it is now functioning properly. There were also no roads in this water logged area connecting the hinterland with the coastal towns. This difficulty was partly solved by the construction of the Alleppey Changanacherry road which was taken up as the 2nd stage of the Kuttanad Development Scheme.

TANNIRMUKKAM BARRIER PROJECT

This project is the third stage of the Kuttanad Development Scheme. The proposal is to construct a Salt Water Barrier at Tannirmukkam across the Vembanad lake where the water-way of the lake is about 4,800 ft. so that the ingress of salt water into the paddy fields of Kuttanad can be prevented. When the project is completed single crop lands extending to 121,000 acres are expected to be converted into double crop lands without fear of damages due to salinity. It will also enable the reclamation of a considerable area of the shallow portion of the Vembanad lake for paddy cultivation. Besides the bridge over the regulator will facilitate direct road communication between Alleppey District on the coast and the Kottayam District in the hinterland which is now accessible only by a circuitous route. In general the project will make an important contribution to the development of the Kuttanad area.

The Tannirmukkam Barrage Project the work on which was formally started in 1958 envisages a regulator of 92 spans of 40 ft each with shutters to a height of 18 ft. To facilitate navigation through the lake a twin lock is proposed at Tannirmukkam and a single lock at Vechur. A 22 ft. wide bridge across the piers supporting the regulator will connect the Districts of Alleppey and Kottayam. About half of the barrage has been completed and the rest of the work is in progress. The regulator may cost more than Rs. 3.1 crores. When completed this will be the longest regulator of its kind in India. The project is expected to be completed in the 4th plan period.

As a result of the completion of all the works proposed under the Kuttanad Development Scheme about 36,000 acres more of lake area can be reclaimed from the Vembanad lake for paddy cultivation. Besides, the entire Kuttanad area will be assured of adequate supply of fresh water in all its water courses throughout the year. Moreover the entire area would be free from saline intrusion and the yield from paddy fields would be increased. The power reservoirs of Pamba and other rivers that fall into the Vembanad lake are also useful in this respect and this fact has been taken into consideration in the design of the spillway or barrage.

A very important and ambitious scheme costing about Rs. 20 crores for constructing semi-submersible bunds and converting the entire paddy area to Mundakan-Ponla is actively under consideration. The scheme is to be financed partly by the Agriculture Refinance Corporation.

MINOR IRRIGATION

The details of the most important of the minor irrigation* work (Class I) completed and in progress are given below: ...

1 REGULATOR AT ANTAKARAZHI, PENADI AND PULLUVELI

These are salt water regulators and are constructed in Turavoor Pakuthy in Shertallai Taluk. About 12,000 acres of land under paddy cultivation in Vayalar, Turavoor and Arur Pakuthies are benefited by these works. A sum of Rs. 8.36 lakhs has been spent for these works.

2 IMPROVEMENTS TO AZHIKKAKAM KUTHAGA BUND

This bund protects an area of 250 acres of paddy field in Arur Pakuthy in Shertallai Taluk from salt water intrusion. The total cost incurred for this work is Rs. 58,000.

* The term 'Minor Irrigation' according to Government of India includes all irrigation works costing less than Rs. 15 lakhs each. Originally this limit was only Rs. 10 lakhs. But as the costs of construction have increased considerably during recent times the Government of India raised the limit to Rs. 15 lakhs. As far as Kerala State was concerned, the classifications followed till recently for Irrigation works were as follows: (1) Minor Irrigation works— those benefiting above 5 acres and below 200 acres. (2) Medium Irrigation Works those costing less than Rs. 200 acres. (3) Lift Irrigation works — those involving the lifting of water by mechanical contrivance. In order that the classifications followed by the State may not conflict with those followed by Government of India the State Government have since decided to modify the classification on the lines mentioned below: (1) Minor Irrigation Class I those costing above Rs. 1 lakh and upto Rs. 10 lakhs (except Lift Irrigation). 2 Minor Irrigation Class II those costing upto Rs. 1 lakh. 3 Lift Irrigation Schemes — those involving the lifting of water by Mechanical Contrivance.

3 CONSTRUCTION OF REGULATORS IN PLASSERICHIRA AND PULLENCHIRA

The area expected to be benefited by the scheme is 314 acres. The entry of saline water to the paddy fields from Mutam Kayal and Vayalar Kayal is proposed to be prevented by the construction of regulators. The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 1,20,400.

4 DEEPENING AND WIDENING MURIKKOLI TODU IN TALAVADI

PANCHAYAT

The work proposed is deepening and widening the Murikkoli todur to facilitate easy drainage and irrigation. Navigation facilities will also be increased. The area benefited by the scheme is 236.82 acres. The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 47,000.

5 IMPROVEMENT TO KUTIRAVATTAM CHIRA AND TODU IN ALA VILLAGE

The work is intended to extend dewatering facilities to Poomalachal in Ala village. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 1,66,330. The area benefited by the scheme is 440 acres.

An year-wise list of minor irrigation works completed in the District and the area benefited by them is given below.

Year	No. of minor irrigation works	Area benefited Acre	Cent
1958—59	4	110	55
1959—60	11	971	13
1960—61	12	896	53
1961—62	13	964	47
1962—63	28	1,867	73
1963—64	37	2,425	03
1964—65	61	2,534	42
1965—66	61	3,618	50
1966—67	55	2,169	65

LIFT IRRIGATION WORKS

Altogether 45 lift irrigation works have been completed in this District till the end of 1966-67. This has benefited an area of 7,284 acres.

AREA UNDER IRRIGATION

In 1958-59 Alleppey had 11'27 % of the net area irrigated in the State¹. This represented 25'5% of the net area in the District. Table VI Shows the sources of water and area (in acres) irrigated in the District during 1958-59.

TABLE VI

Sources of water supply and area irrigated (1958-59) ²

	Sources	Area irrigated in acres
	Total	
1 Canals		99,106
	Government	12,665
	Private	7,545
2 Tanks		3,610
3 Wells		135
4 Others		75,106

Table VII shows the area in acres of crops irrigated in the District in 1958-59

TABLE VII

Irrigated area under different crops

Crop	Total	Area irrigated
		101,296
1 Rice		65,098
2 Pulses		876
3 Sugarcane		7,060
4 Other food crops		28,259

The percentage of area irrigated under each crop to the total area under the crop is also given in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII

Percentage of area irrigated under each crop to the total area under the crop.

Crop	Percentage
Paddy	41.6
Pulses	31.3

¹ A classification of the term "Irrigation" is required to avoid confusion among those who may use these figures. Usually it may be presumed that these statistics give the area irrigated from the various types of irrigation projects, viz., major, minor, medium, lift etc. But in addition many acres of land are being irrigated by the cultivators from sources other than these irrigation projects. Irrigation may therefore be interpreted here as supply of water by artificial means for raising crops.

² No statistics are available as to the total area irrigated after 1958-59.



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navigation, salinity control etc. There is much scope for utilising the waters of the Pamba and Achenkoil rivers for irrigating the lands in the rice-growing tract. The Onattukara region comprising of the fertile paddy lands in the Karthikapally and Mavelikara Taluks, south of Achenkoil river, now depends entirely on seasonal rainfall, but if irrigation facilities are provided they can be made to raise crops. A portion of these lands can be irrigated by execution of works in the Achenkoil basin¹. The lands that lie further south, and away from the banks of the river, can be supplied with irrigation water from the Pamba river. Moreover, there are about 125,000 acres of land in the Kuttanad region, which can be considered as rightly coming under the Pamba valley. This will require a lot of water for toxicity removal and also for raising a third crop. Some water can also be diverted into the Manimala river for meeting the irrigation needs of that valley. The large volume of water released from the various power houses proposed in the river basin can also be advantageously utilised for irrigating these lands. This water will be sufficient enough to raise 3 crops in the entire Onattukara and Kuttanad regions even if the works proposed in the Achenkoil basin are not implemented. In addition to the above storage, the run-off of the river during the monsoon months can also be effectively utilised for raising the first and second crops².

SOILS

There are five major agricultural tracts in the District, viz., (1) Sandy Coastal region, (2) Onattukara, (3) Kuttanad, (4) Laterite region and (5) Alluvial

SANDY COASTAL REGION

In the Tycattusseri, Pattanakad, Kanjikuzhi and Aryad Bloeks the soils are mainly sandy and of marine origin. These soils are heavily drained and poor in organic content and other plant nutrients as well. The prime requirement of these soils is nothing but organic matter of any kind. The cultivators have experienced that the removal of some sand from the surface upto a depth of 3 ft. above the normal water table and addition of tank silt or black clay from backwaters makes the coconut gardens in these parts very

¹ See Water Resources of Kerala—Advance Report, pp. 181-83.

² The details of the Schemes proposed in the Various basins can be had from Water Resources of Kerala—Advance Report, pp. 174-83.

productive. The silt and black clay when added will increase the water holding capacity of the soil. The structure of this type of soil can be improved only by the addition of organic matter. At present saline resistant varieties of paddy are grown in this region.

ONATTUKARA REGION

In this region are raised 2 paddy crops and one gingelly thereafter. The Mutukulam Block represents the typical Onattukara region. The major portions of Bharanikavu, Mutukulam, Mavelikkara and Haripad Blocks also come under this region. The soil condition is predominantly sandy at the surface of the garden lands and tends to become sandy loam at lower regions and at still further depth clayey loam. In paddy fields usually the soil is sandy loam. Generally these soils are poor in all plant foods and deficient in organic content. But fertilizer application has got a very high response in these soils. Cultivators raise very successful crops of paddy, gingelly, coconut, tapioca, root crops like yams, colocasia etc. and also, of late, sugarcane. But during the last two years the Viruppu crop was badly affected due to late and scanty rainfall and posed a new problem so far unnoticed. In case water can be supplied in such contingencies crop failures can be successfully averted.

KUTTANAD REGION

This region can be divided into three parts, viz., (1) Upper Kuttanad, (2) Kari lands and (3) Keyal lands. The upper Kuttanad lands constitute the *Punja* lands of Haripad, Cheneannur and Pulikizh Blocks. These are regions where paddy is cultivated from time immemorial. They are lowlying areas subject to heavy water-logging during rainy season and all the characteristics of water-logged soils can be noticed. Looked up humus, high acidity and serious deficiency in phosphorus and calcium are the main features of these soils. Here the cultivation commences late when the land becomes drained off. Prudent application of fertilizers and abundant use of lime have shown good results.

Kari lands are found in Tottappalli area in Ambalapuzha Block, Karuvatta region in Haripad Block, Takazhi area in Champakulam Block, Turavur in Pattinakkad Block and scattered area of Tycattusserri Block. They differ in their characteristics from the Upper Kuttanad lands, though there are also some points of similarity between them. The term *Kari* has developed from the black colour of the soil. It is believed that the Kari lands were once forest lands full of trees and by some geological factors they got

sunk to a considerable depth beneath the water level. Even now stumps of these trees and layers of leaf mould are unearthed in the area very often. This might have happened centuries ago. The kari lands pose innumerable problems for soil research.

The third type of lands which come under Kuttanad is Kayal lands. The Ambalapuzha, Champakulam and Veliyanad Blocks and portions of Pulikizh, Mavelikara and Haripad Block constitute the Kayal lands. Here the depth of land is much more than in upper Kuttanad or in Kari. These are actually lagoons or back waters. The formation is similar to that of Kari. But being situated at a still lower region and mouth of many river tributaries, the Kayal lands are richer in sand content. The problems are quite similar to those of Kari lands. Here the cultivation starts earlier than in upper Kuttanad as the surrounding water becomes brackish earlier. The dewatering starts from August. As the Kayal lands are lower than Kari lands the cost of bunding is higher. Usually semi-permanent bunds are made with clay. The erection of loose clay bunds allowed to settle for one year is the method to start with. Later on 18' to 25' long coconut or bamboo piles are driven into the outer edge of the bund 2½' apart and split bamboo screens are provided to prevent washing off. The sets of a graminaceous plant locally named *karakam* being a superior soil binder and one which easily thrives in the area are planted on and around the bunds to check water intrusion. This plant grows enormously during rains spreading roots all around. It protects the bunds from the turbulent flow of water. During the whole period of cultivation it remains green and by the time the water becomes saltish, *karakam* has also finished its seed production and distribution and leaves dry up. The stalks and roots remain dormant and partially dried up during the hot summer but it readily sprouts with fresh vigour when monsoon sets in.

Semi-submersible bund is also utilised for cultivation of coconuts which come up very well if sufficient amount of river sand is also added. It is also noticed that marine sand found in the coastal region of Alleppey District mixed with clay in a proportion of 1 : 4 is good for coconut cultivation. Banana, vegetables etc., also come up very well on these bunds.

Kuttanad as a whole is deficit in Silica and Magnesium. The results have proved that 25 kg. of Sodium Magnesium Silicate applied for each crop brings about good results.

LATERITE REGION

The laterite region of Alleppey District comprised of portions of Mavelikara, Pantalam, Kulanada, Millapally, Koipuram and Chengannur Blocks is in many ways dissimilar to the laterite regions in other parts of the state. Iron and Aluminium oxides and hydroxides are the major ingredients of these soils. The laterite soils are fairly rich in nitrogen but very poor in phosphorus and calcium. Towards the eastern side of the laterite region the soil is better in potash content than in the western parts. Due to deficiency of calcium the soil is acidic in reaction. Hence fertilizers which tend to make the soil acidic have to be applied with great care lest the response should become poor in due course. However, proper fertilization and judicious application of lime, say a ton per acre once in 3 or 4 years, prove to be congenial for crop production in these areas. The bulk of the copra production in the District is from laterite soils. Pepper, arecanut, coconut, banana and sugarcane are the major crops of this tract. The laterite region being usually sloppy is more affected by soil erosion. Imprudent cultural practices can only aggravate the extent of erosion. Anyhow cultivators are capable of reaping rich harvest from these lands by adopting proper agronomical practices.

ALLUVIAL SOILS

The alluvial soils of this District are not different from the alluvial soils elsewhere. The Pamba and Manimala river beds are the major alluvial tracts of the District. The Pulikizh Block and portions of Chengannur, Mavelikara, Pantalam and Kulanada Block fall within this tract. The fineness in texture and granulating and friable character of the soil are very congenial to the growth of almost all crops. Paddy and sugarcane are grown extensively in these tracts. Sugarcane production is better in plots where the flood water deposits silt. The influence of Alluvium can be seen in the Upper Kuttanad region and sparingly in lower areas. But the general character differs owing to the fact that these soils remain under anaerobic condition for a relatively longer period.

AREA UNDER CROPS

Rice, Coconut and Sugarcane are the major crops of the District. The details of the various crops grown showing the acreage of each crop and its percentage to the total cropped area in the case of the more important ones are given in table IX.

TABLE IX
AREA UNDER CROPS

Area in acres	% to the total cropped area					
Crops	1956-57	1960-61	1964-65	1956-57	1960-61	1964-65
Rice	180,900	196,171	202,406	32.16	35.78	37.27
Other cereals	142	103	101	.03	.02	.04
Pulses	2,690	2,710	2,614	.58	.49	.49
Sugarcane	9,903	13,500	13,949	2.55	2.46	2.57
Pepper	4,444	4,330	3,151	0.90	0.79	0.58
Betelnuts	5,665	4,961	8,184	1.03	1.03	0.51
Other condiments & spices (Ginger & Turmeric)	191	166	217	0.55	0.56	0.55
Banana (including plantain)	7,511	3,512	7,092	0.85	1.39	1.31
Cashewnuts	7,294	4,512	6,795	1.18	1.33	1.25
Tapioca	69,724	51,173	59,453	12.34	12.72	10.95
Sesamum	10,120	19,775	9,936	2.32	1.84	1.83
Coconut	187,373	166,157	174,911	34.63	34.18	32.21
Rubber	4,844	2,981	6,763	0.71	0.18	1.25

Table X shows the total out-turn of principal crops in the District for 1956-57, 1960-61 and 1964-65

TABLE X
TOTAL OUT-TURN OF IMPORTANT CROPS

Crops	Out-turn in tons		
	1956-57	1960-61	1964-65
Rice	90,154	118,445	116,251
Other cereals & millets	60	38	62
Pulses	105	393	354
Sugarcane	19,060	22,910	21,906
Pepper	845	720	364
Ginger & Turmeric	97	25	107
Betelnuts	327	270	516
Banana	22,282	9,994	21,310
Cashewnuts	4,527	2,820	3,037
Sesamum	350	3,986	227
Coconut (Million Nuts)	488	466	514
Rubber	176	378	377

MODE OF CULTIVATION OF IMPORTANT CROPS

PADDY (NELLU) (ORYZA SATIVA LINN)

There are two important methods of paddy cultivation in this District confined mainly to the Onattukara region and the Kuttanad region. In the Onattukara region two crops of paddy, viz., the *Mundakan* and *Viruppu* are raised while in the Kuttanad region generally only the crop of paddy called "*punja*" (between September and March) is raised. The cultivators however try to raise a second crop in the eastern areas of Kuttanad by sowing a deep water variety known as *Kulappala*. The position in regard to the three crops in 1963-64 was follows:-

	Acres
Viruppu	52, 741
Mundakan	36, 895
Punja	100, 894

PADDY CULTIVATION IN ONATTUKARA

The Onattukara region comprises the Taluk of Karthikapally and portions of Mavelikara. The method and natural condition of cultivation in Onattukara differ from those in other parts of the District. This region has good loamy, well-drained soil and unfailing rainfall which is well distributed and often dependable. The holdings are on the whole very small. The fields are entirely rainfed. The seasons are the same for *Mundakan* and *Viruppu* as elsewhere in the State. But unlike in other parts of Kerala, two crops of paddy with a crop of gingelly (sesamum) is the rule. The gingelly crop serves the purpose of rotation.

VIRUPPU

The first crop '*Viruppu*' is sown under dry conditions and subsequently treated as wet crop with the outbreak of the monsoon. With the pre-monsoon showers the land is prepared by ploughing and paddy seeds dibbled behind the plough or sown broadcast and covered by ploughing and planking. Powdered farm yard manure and wood ash are sometimes mixed with the seed and sown depending upon the moisture status of the soil. In other cases, farm yard manure and ash are applied as a basal dressing and ploughed under during the last ploughing. The application of Ammonium Sulphate, Superphosphate and Muriate of potash as a basal dressing is also becoming increasingly popular. But the use of fertilisers as a basal

dressings is limited by the lack of assured water supply. The cultivators use a high seed rate upto 80-100 lbs. per acre for this crop probably as an insurance against the vagaries of the pre-monsoonⁿ showers which determine satisfactory germination. The short-duration varieties of paddy which are grown during this season are not profuse-tillering varieties and this factor would also account for the high seed rate. Two or three inter-cultivations are done by means of small narrow-bladed spades and the sowing in lines greatly facilitates this operation. Ash is applied and slightly mixed with the soil during the inter-cultivation operations. Top dressing with Ammonium Sulphate or urea is also resorted to. The crop is harvested in August--September.

MUNDAKAN

The second crop '*Mundakan*' is transplanted during August-September months. During the '*Mundakan*' season medium and long duration varieties of paddy are grown. Sowing in the nursery is done during June and July and thirty to thirty-five days old seedlings are transplanted in the main field. The main field is puddled by means of successive ploughings using bullocks or by hand digging with *mammatties* and recently by tractor power. Green leaves, farm yard manure and compost are ploughed under the soil. Liming is also practised in areas where the soils are acidic in reaction. Ammonium Sulphate, bonemeal or superphosphate and muriate of potash are also applied as basal dressing. The fertilizer recommendations are 30 N : 30 P₂O₅:30K₂O. Transplanting in lines greatly facilitates inter-culture by means of Japanese hoes. Where transplanting is not done in lines weeding is done by hand. Top dressing with ammonium sulphate or urea is given to the crop. The crop comes into ear by November--January. Harvesting is done by January. The cost of cultivation of paddy ranges from Rs. 200 to 300 per acre depending upon the season and application of fertilisers.

PUNJA CULTIVATION IN KUTTANAD

The paddy fields in the Kuttanad region are cultivated annually between September and March and the crop raised is known as "Punja" crop¹. Punja cultivation is undertaken by pumping out

- 1 The Kuttanad region is spread over 7 Taluks in Alleppey District and 3 Taluks in the Kottayam District. In the Alleppey District it comprises of 5 Villages in Ambalapuzha, 12 Villages in Kuttanad, 7 Villages in Shertalla, 7 Villages in Kartoikapally, 11 Villages in Mavelikara, 5 Villages in Chengannur and 5 Villages in Tiruvalla Taluk.

water. It may be noted in this connection that the problem of the Kuttanad area is not one of water scarcity but that of excess of water, which has to be pumped out so as to prepare the fields for sowing.

The paddy fields of Kuttanad are generally called *Padasekharams* which means a group of paddy fields. They are encircled by protective ring bunds which are maintained and repaired from year to year. The total number of *padasekharams* in Kuttanad comes to 1, 129. The area of individual *padasekharams* varies from 10 to 2,400 acres. The total area covered is roughly 135, 000 acres. The number of *padasekharams* in Alleppey District is 671, covering an extent of about 92,000 acres and the number of *padasekharams* in the Kottayam District is 458 covering an extent of about 43, 000 acres.

The Taluk-wise statement showing the number of *padasekharams* and their area in Alleppey District is given below:

NUMBER OF PADASEKHARAMS AND EXTENT

Taluk	No. of Padams	Area in acres
Total	671	91, 904.01
1 Kuttanad	414	53, 603.29
2 Ambalapuzha	82	14, 112.69
3 Shertallai	24	5, 188.32
4 Karthikapally	78	8, 622.69
5 Mavelikara	26	4, 213.85
6 Tiruvalla	41	4, 777.32
7 Chengannur	6	1, 325.65

The paddy fields may be broadly classified under five heads, viz., (1) Kayal *padasekharams*, (2) *padasekharams* in bund areas (3) Kari land, (4) Kara padams and (5) Double crop Kulappala lands. The Kayal *padasekharams* are extensive paddy fields reclaimed from the Vembanad lake. The reclamation was begun more than half a century ago. The latest reclamation is about 20 years back. The total extent under this item comes roughly to 19, 500 acres. They lie mostly in Kuttanad Taluk. The *Padasekharams* in bund areas, about 7,000 acres in extent, are situated in the villages of Ambalapuzha, Purakkad, Takazhi and Karuvatta. These are also reclaimed lands originally left as waste. With the construction of Tottappalli Spillway, strong bunds have been put up by Government and a channel leading to the Spillway has been cut across the area. The soil here is highly acidic. But the punja crop in this area has been a partial failure over a period of 3 years since the outer bunds have

been left in disrepair by the cultivators. The area under Kari lands comes to about 4,000 acres in the Sertallai Taluk. The soil is highly acidic. The system of cultivation is somewhat different from the other areas of Kuttanad. Here sprouted seeds are sown on heaps formed during summer. Sowing is done in July. These heaps with seedlings are spread out to fill up the gaps later. The total area under Karpadams comes to about 102,700 acres. There are reclamations effected in the remote past and the fields are comparatively shallow. Here also the cultivation is done after dewatering. The Upper Kuttanad area where the depth of water is comparatively shallow comprises of the double crop Kulappala lands. The cultivators take an additional crop of Paddy under deep water conditions after the usual punja crop. The total area under such cultivation is nearly 7,000 acres. This cultivation is called the "Kulappala" cultivation. Here the cost of production is relatively low and if the season is favourable the yield obtained is between 10 to 15 folds. The cultivation operations connected with Punja and Kulappala are described below in detail.

CULTIVATION OPERATIONS IN PUNJA LANDS

The Punja lands in Kuttanad lie submerged under water during the monsoons. The ring bunds encircling the *padasekharams* sometimes get damaged during the monsoons and they are repaired and renewed, wherever necessary, during October and November. Water inside the *padasekharams* is pumped out with the help of motors or oil engines. Thereafter, the inner bunds are repaired and the lands are made ready for sowing. After sowing or transplanting of seedlings, water will have to be let into the fields 3 or 4 times before harvest. The water thus let in, as also rain water, will have to be pumped out, at regular intervals. Repair of ring bunds and dewatering are not carried out throughout Kuttanad area at the same time. The work begins earlier in the kayal areas, and later in the paddy fields which are away from the backwater regions.

Ring bunds encircling the *padasekharams* were formed at the time of the reclamations. Damages to the ring bunds caused during the monsoon season by rains and floods have to be properly repaired. These bunds are constructed with clay, shrubs, twigs and grass. Clay is taken from canals and rivers from a depth of 10 to 20 feet and the other materials are got from distant places. The cost of repairing ring bunds is estimated at about Rs. 3 to 10 per *Dandu* (10 feet).

Dewatering with the aid of water wheels (worked by manual labour) was the age old practice. Even now, this is in vogue in smaller blocks of *punja* lands and in larger blocks in the upper regions of the rivers where the water level is very low and the lands have been almost silted up. In other cases, water varying in depth from 2 to 10 feet, is pumped out with oil engines or electric motors installed at convenient sites on the ring bunds. Engines and motors of 5 to 50 H.P. are used for the purpose. The work of pumping out water and incidental items are carried out on the basis of contracts given in auction from the *Punja* Special office or as per private *udampadiis* (agreements) executed by the cultivators. The cost of dewatering varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 per acre. A part of the cost is borne by Government, which is given in the form of subsidy.

The first ploughing is done soon after the harvest, when the fields are dry. The fields are ploughed again in August, September and October, when the water levels inside the blocks are brought down. There are generally two rounds of dry ploughing, i.e., immediately after harvest. Ploughing is done with bullocks or buffaloes and in some cases tractors are also used. The cost of ploughing is estimated at Rs. 27 per acre.

Seeds are sprouted in screw-pine bags and then broadcasted in the field when the water level is 1 to 1 1/2 feet. The water is then completely drained within 3 to 5 days and after sowing, the fields remain dry for about 7 days. Water is then let into a height of 2 inches. Within a period of 20 to 25 days after sowing, the seedlings are transplanted, leaving sufficient interspace. Generally, 3 to 4 seedlings per hole are planted, about six inches apart. Water is again drained, and manure is applied. Water is thereafter let in and pumped out, according to requirements, till the harvest. The cost of seed, labour charges for sowing, weeding and transplanting is estimated at Rs. 40 per acre.

The harvest commences usually in February-March. The entire process of harvesting, threshing and drying has to be completed before the onset of the monsoon. Harvesting is done with sickles, and the upper half of the stalk is also harvested, along with the ear-heads. Threshing is done by labourers on the threshing floor of the fields. Drying and winnowing are also done on the threshing floor and the paddy is thereafter conveyed in canoes to godowns.

KULAPPALA CULTIVATION

In the major portion of Kuttanad area, only one crop is raised. The difficulty in raising a second crop is mainly due to the entry of saline water, which renders cultivation operations difficult, if not impossible, for a period of about 6 months. There was, however, an attempt to raise a second crop, which began from the year 1118 M. E. (1942-43 A. D.). This was by cultivation of a variety of paddy known as Kulappala which is a deep-water variety which grows up to a height of 5 to 6 feet, with power to resist normal flood levels. This cultivation is limited to the shallow regions of the Kuttanad area i. e., the eastern portion of Kuttanad. This variety of paddy is sown in April and harvested in September, and the expense involved is not very considerable. In cases where there have been heavy floods, the attempt at raising a second crop by cultivating Kulappala has not been quite successful.

There is a feeling among some cultivators that by raising the ring bunds beyond the high flood-level points, two crops could be raised in the entire Kuttanad area. This is not a practical proposition at present. The intrusion of saline water into the interior is a natural phenomenon during the summer months, due to the low flow of water into the rivers that run into the lake. In the kayal areas, it begins by the beginning of January and the salinity reaches the upper regions by the end of February. The drying up of the land immediately after the harvest, as a preliminary to the second cultivation, has not found favour with the experts. This is due to the varying conditions of acidity. In the highly acidic fields of the kayal regions and lower regions of the lower Karapadam area, it has been found that there is a bottom layer of acid clay with highly toxic salts, and if such an area is allowed to be dried too much the toxic substance will come up to the surface by capillary action, which would prejudice cultivation. Hence the question of keeping the lands dry, waiting for the pre-monsoon showers for the preliminary preparation of the land for sowing, has not been found feasible. It is also stated that even if the conditions at the time of the harvest (February-March) are favourable to prepare the land and to sow the fields, the delay in the pre-monsoon showers would result in the drying up of the area, and the seedlings would then wither away due to the deleterious effect of the toxic salt and due to the prolonged drying up. Since the water outside is saline, it cannot be used for irrigation. It is, however, expected that the difficulties and obstacles

in raising a second crop due to the inflow of saline water, would be considerably diminished after the completion of the Tannirmukkam project, which forms the second stage of the Kuttanad Development Scheme.

Reference may be made in this connection to some of the special factors that affect cost of cultivation in Kuttanad. They are (1) construction and annual maintenance of outer bunds (2) dewatering of the field to enable cultivation of paddy crop (3) The necessity for annual liming to offset the influence of acidity (4) intrusion of salt water in the Kuttanad area from the month of February preventing irrigation and consequent lowering of yield in fields where the sowing is late (5) unexpected floods which cause breach of bunds and (6) heavy weeding charges.

KUTTUMUNDAKAN

In Shertallai Taluk of Alleppey District *Viruppu* and *Mundakan* paddy seeds are sown together in the same field and harvested separately when they attain their maturity. This type of cultivation is locally known as 'Kuttumundakan.' The seeds are sown in the *Viruppu* season on mounds. The *Mundakan* variety will be a long duration crop. The seeds are mixed and sown. The mounds are levelled about a month after sowing. When the *Viruppu* crop is harvested, the other *Mundakan* crop is also out and then allowed to grow.

VARIETIES OF PADDY

The Alleppey District grows a number of varieties of paddy which are known by different local names among the agriculturists. However, the Agricultural Department has evolved a few improved varieties and is trying to popularise them. The more popular local as well as improved varieties grown in the District are given in table XI and XII.

TABLE XI

LOCAL VARIETIES OF PADDY

Season	Variety	Duration
I. Viruppu	1 Kochuvithu	90—100 days
	2 Chetti Viruppu	145 "
	3 Myla	90—100 "

II	Mundakan	1 Atikarazhi Mundakan	140 days
		2 Velutha Mundakan	140 "
		3 Chembavu	125 "
III	Punja	1 Kunju Atikira	115 "
		2 Tirinja Vella	114 "
		3 Kochuvitha	90 "
		4 Oru Mundakan	150 "

TABLE XII

IMPROVED VARIETIES OF PADDY

Season	Variety	Duration days	Average Acre yield Lbs.	Percentage in- crease over the ryot's crop
I	Viruppu PTB.16			
	(Tekkan Cheera)	100	2,500	15.0
	PTB.23			
	(Cheriyā Aryan)	110	2,000	48.1
II	Mundakan UR.10	145	3,000	13.0
	PTB.4 (Vellari)	140	3,000	13.0
III	Punja PIB.20			
	(Vadakkan Chittalai)	120	2,500-3,000	45.0
	PTB.10	100	2,500	15.0

The average yield of paddy per acre in the District for each of the years from 1960-61 to 1965-66 is given in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII

AVERAGE YIELD OF PADDY PER ACRE 1960-66

Year	Paddy Kgs./Acre		
	Viruppu	Mundakan	Punja
Till 1960-61	638	829*	975*
1961-62	707	956	1,033
1962-63	755	770	1,010
1963-64	625	831	955
1964-65	591	869	1,051
1965-66	766	630	691

* Average for three years.

Source:—Bureau of Economics and Statistics.

The figures for the average yield of paddy for 1962-63 onwards are estimates obtained from the combined source of experiments of I. A. D. P. and B. E. & S.

SUGARCANE

Among the sugar crops, sugarcane is the most important. Alleppey has 55.2% of the total area under sugarcane in the State. The main sugarcane growing areas are Mavelikara, Koipuram, Mallappally, Pantalam, and Tiruvalla. Sugarcane cultivation extends over 13,949 acres which raises the District to the status of the largest sugarcane growing District—in the State. The District occupies the same position with regard to production also, the figures for 1964-65 being 27,906 tons of gur out of the total State production of 43,395 tons of gur. The sugarcane as normally cultivated is of about 10-12 months duration. Warmth and humidity during the growing stage and dry chilly weather at maturity are ideal for the crop. Sugarcane is a long duration exhaustive crop and so it thrives best in fertile soils with good drainage facilities. The crop is, however, cultivated on a variety of soils—namely clay soils, clay loams, red loams and sandy loams. In wet lands sugarcane is sometimes rotated with rice leaving an interval of at least two years. The land is ploughed a number of times fairly deep till the required tilth is obtained. The main planting season is March-April but in some parts it commences from the middle of January. Before planting the land is levelled and laid out into ridges and furrows at distances of about 2 1/2 to 3 feet. Sugarcane is heavily manured. Unfailing water supply is essential throughout the growth period of the crop. Weeding and hoeing, filling gaps, trenching and earthing up, wrapping and propping, trashing and removal of shoots are the main after-cultivation operations. The period when canes attain the maximum sucrose depends on the age, time of planting and variety. In general it can be said that canes when planted in February-April attain maturity in twelve months. Harvest of canes is done with heavy knives or hatchets. The canes are cut flush with the ground level or even two to four inches below the ground. Soon after harvest, the canes are stripped of the trash (dry leaves). This is done with the sickle. The trash is used as fuel for furnaces in jaggery making. The average yield from sugar cane varies from 3,600 to 3,800 lbs. of gur per acre. The cost of cultivation varies from Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 per acre and the total income varies from Rs. 1,200 to 1,500 per acre. The yield of gur per acre in the

District for each of the years from 1960—61 to 1964—65 is given below.

Year	Yield
1960—61	1.66 MT
1961—62	1.7 „
1962—63	1.9 „
1963—64	3.2 „
1964—65	3.0 „

GINGELLY (SESAMUM INDICUM)

Sesamum cultivation extended over 9,935 acres in 1964—66. The District has 33.53% of the total area under sesamum in the State. It occupies the first position in regard to area, though only the third place in regard to production. Gingelly is an annual plant growing to a height of two to three feet. It is cultivated for the oil which is extracted from its seeds. There are two varieties of the crop, one whitish and the other black. The latter is the more common of the two and is known as first sort gingelly because it yields the largest percentage of oil, viz., 43 per cent. The soil best suited for the cultivation of gingelly is well drained alluvial loam. The land is ploughed and harrowed and the seed sown at the rate of eight to ten pounds per acre. The average yield per acre varies from 330 to 450 lbs. The area cultivated with gingelly in Alleppey is in no way commensurate with the needs of the people. It is largely used for culinary purposes, in anointing the body, in soap manufacture, occasionally as an illuminant, and sometimes in adulterating ghee. In many of its properties it resembles the olive oil. The oil from the black variety of gingelly is generally believed to be better suited for medicinal purposes than that of the white. It is also extensively used in the manufacture of perfumes. The oil-cake left after extraction of the oil is in demand all over India as a cattle food and in times of famine it is also eaten by the poorer classes of the people.

COCONUT

The coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) - 'the tree of heaven' grows luxuriantly in the deltaic tracts and backwater areas of Alleppey District. Its highest production is, however, confined to the western portions of the District and where the soil is either alluvial or peaty. In 1964—65 the total area under coconut and the total production were 174,911 acres and 488 million nuts respectively representing

12.7% of both acreage and production under the crop in Kerala. Alleppey stands third among the Districts of the State in acreage and production.

Coconut is propagated by seedlings. In areas where the water table is fairly high in summer as in the backwater areas, planting in shallow pits or on raised mounds is resorted to whereas in areas where the water table is low the seedlings are planted in pits of 1 metre depth. The planting season also similarly varies according to the conditions prevalent in the locality. In low lying areas which are likely to be flooded during the S. W. Monsoon, planting is done in the months of September-October. In upland areas it is generally done in the month of June.

One year old seedlings are generally utilised. But two to three year old seedlings are also planted in lowlying areas. The cultivators generally take care to give proper spacing at the time of planting and attend to subsequent aftercare operations such as fencing against browsing by cattle, proper watering in the absence of rains; periodical weeding of pits, manuring seedlings, proper check against insect pests like white ants and Rhinoceros beetle and diseases like budrot and leaf disease. With the launching of the comprehensive spraying scheme in the District the leaf disease of coconut is being effectively controlled.

Coconut generally starts bearing from the 7th year of planting. The yield varies considerably with the genetic quality and age of trees, character of soils, cultural operations received, manuring and incidence of pests and diseases. Heavier yields are obtained in deltaic tracts and backwater areas than in the laterite soils. In neglected gardens, only low yield (less than 20 nuts per tree per year) is generally obtained whereas in well cared gardens an average yield of over 100 nuts per tree per year is obtained. The number of pluckings made varies from 6 to 12 a year. The peak period of harvest is from March to May and lean periods from August to December. The yield of coconuts per acre in the District for each of the years from 1960-61 to 1964-65 is given below.

Year	Yield
1960-61	2, 829 Nuts
1961-62	2, 605 „
1962-63	2, 478 „
1963-64	2, 420 „
1964-65	2, 939 „

CROP CALENDAR

The calendar of agricultural operations for some important crops in the District is given in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV

CALENDAR OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS FOR SEASONAL CROPS

Name of Crop	Sowing Season	Harvesting Season
1 Paddy		
Viruppu	April-May	August--September
Mundakan	August-September	January -February
Punja	November-December	February--March
2 Sesamum	December-January	March-April
3 Sugarcaue		
1 st crop	October-December	August-October
2 nd crop	January-February	November-December
4 Horsegram	September-October	December-January
5 Blackgram	May-June	August-September
6 peas and beans		
1st crop	May-June	August--September
2nd crop	October-November	January-February
7 Tapioca		
1st crop	October-November	August-September
2nd crop	March-April	December-January
3rd crop	August-September	June-July
8 Tubers	March-April	October-November

Recently a trend is noticed among the Kuttanad cultivators to advance the crop period. This is done with a view to harvesting the crop before salinity enters the waters of the rivers.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

Agricultural Implements now in use in the District are mostly the conventional ones. They include the local plough, spades, of different patterns, rakes and levelling planks as found elsewhere in the State

KALAPPA

The chief tillage implement is the wooden plough (*Kalappa*). It consists of a tongue of wood fitted with iron tooth, a stilt for holding and a pole to be attached to the necks of bullocks or buffaloes. The plough is usually worked by one man and a pair of

bullocks or buffaloes. The plough makes 'V' shaped furrows leaving ridges of unploughed land. The plough is also incapable of inverting the soil due to the absence of mould board. The Department of Agriculture has designed some types of iron ploughs to suit local conditions. But for more reasons than one, they are not popular with the farmers.

MARAM OR GNAVARI PALAKA

The next most important tillage implement is the levelling board or *Maram* or *Gnavari palaka*, as it is locally called. This is a heavy wooden plank generally drawn by bullocks or buffaloes to level the ground. The scooped surface of the plank runs over the clods and crushes them.

MAMMATTI OR KAIKOT

The spade or *Mammatti* or *kaikot*, is the most popular hand tool in use in the District. It is used for digging, mulching, earthing up etc.

HAND-HOE

Even though hand weeding is the usual practice, a small digger with an iron blade and wooden handle locally called *kochu tumpa* is used for weeding in some parts. Worn out *mammattis* are also sometimes used for inter cultivation, weeding and mulching up crops.

SICKLE

The chief tool for harvesting is the sickle (*Arivai*) with a cutting edge and a wooden handle. This is mainly used for the harvesting of paddy and for cutting fodder.

POPULAR IRRIGATION DEVICES

There are, however, some implements which are peculiar to the District. The most important of them are (1) *Pikota*, (2) The *Baling Spoon* and the *Baling Basket*, (3) The *Water Wheel* and (4) The *Water Pump* or the *Steam Pump*.

COUNTERPOISE LIFT OR PIKOTA

The counterpoise lift (*Pikota*) is used for irrigating fields from small depths, say 10 to 12 ft. This consists of a horizontal beam mounted on a vertical post. At one end of the beam a counterpoise

weight is attached and at the other a water bucket is tied to a long bamboo pole or coir rope. The weight at the end is sufficient to raise the water bucket when full. A man handles the bucket to drain the water into the channels. To assist him ropes are also tied on one or both sides of the central pivot at which a second man pulls now the one and now the other as the bucket is raised and lowered.

THE BALING SPOON AND THE SWING BASKET

The baling spoon is suspended by a rope on a tripod and worked by manual labour. It is made of wood. The spoon is useful only for lifting water to a small height ranging from 1 to 3 ft. The swing basket is conical in shape with two pairs of ropes attached to two corners near its rim. This is operated by two men who swing the basket with ropes in such a way that water is scooped from a lower level and discharged to a higher level.

THE WATER-WHEEL

A wooden wheel (*Chakram*) of light frame with six to twelve paddles turns on an axle which rests on two pivots. The pivots are fixed on the sides of the wooden conduit enclosing the lower portion of the wheel. The wheel is made to revolve by pedalling the paddles. The number of men required for working the wheel depends on the number of paddles. The revolving paddles lift the water and discharge it through the wooden conduit.

PUMPS

Electric pumps and oil engine pumps are the most popular drainage appliances used in the District.

AXIAL FLOW CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS (*Pelliyum Parayum*)

This type of pumps are extensively used in punja areas of Alleppey District for draining the water from the fields. They are designed to handle large quantities of water at low heads. This pump has three main parts. (1) Hollow cylinder (*para*). The hollow cylinder is generally made of wood and the diameter of the cylinder depends on the rate of discharge required. The height of the cylinder depends on the height to which water is to be lifted. (2) Impeller—The propeller type impeller works at the bottom of the cylinder and when worked water is lifted to the top of the cylinder. (3) Water Conduit At the top of the cylinder a conduit made of wood is fixed. The water is lifted to the top of the cylinder and is

discharged through this wooden conduit. Either electric motors or oil engines are used for running these pumps.

TRACTORS

Of late tractors have come into vogue. The District has 73 out of the 276 tractors in the State.

Besides, there are various other minor implements which are used in connection with cultivation. They are the *vetturaval*, the *tumpa*, the *vellukathi*, *kuntali*, *para*, *kodali*, etc.

Table XV gives a comparative study of the number of agricultural implements and machinery in the Alleppey District in 1961.

TABLE XV
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, 1961

Item	No.
1 Ploughs	
a) Wooden	24,475
b) Iron	2,446
2 Carts	1,015
3 Sugarcane crushers	
a) Power	42
b) Bullocks	186
4 Oil engines	407
5 Electric pumps	358
6 Tractors	73
7 Ghannis	
a) More than 5 seers	138
b) Less than 5 seers	193

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

The agricultural crops of the District, particularly paddy, Coconut and Sugarcane, are affected by pests and diseases. The most important pests and diseases affecting the main crops of the District, the nature of the damage caused by them and the remedial measures adopted are given below.

A DAMAGE FROM PESTS

1 Paddy

a) Rice swarming caterpillar (*Spodoptera mauritia*)

The caterpillars damage paddy by feeding on the leaves. They appear in the field in large swarms and destroy the whole crop in early stages. The plants are reduced to mere stumps. The outbreak is sporadic. Recently it has been found that this pest can be effectively checked by spraying the affected crops with D. D. T. suspension or .03% endrin emulsion at 30 gallons per acre.

(b) Paddy Stem Borer (*Schoenochius incertellus*)

These caterpillars bore into the stems and destroy the plants completely causing 'dead hearts' and 'white ear heads'. The damage done is occasionally serious. Spraying endrin or parathion 0.03% emulsion at 30—40 gallon per acre, first 15 to 20 days after sowing, second a fortnight after transplantation and third just before flowering,

(c) Rice Bug (*Leptocoris acuta*)

These small greenish yellow bugs appear in the paddy field during the earbearing seasons and damage the paddy crops by sucking the milky juice of tender grains which become chaff in consequence. They may be controlled by collecting and destroying the nymphs and adults and by dusting with 10% B. H. C. at 25 lbs. per acre.

2 Coconut

In spite of its hardy nature, the coconut palm is affected by a number of insect pests at all stages of its growth. The more important of them are described below.

a) Rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinocoris* L)

This is the most ubiquitous pest of the coconut palm. It attacks the tender folded leaves and the infested trees receive a setback and may even die. Its control consists in the removal of beetle from the crown of the palms by means of a hooked pointed rod. After extraction of the beetle the hole should be filled with sand or sand mixed with 5% B. H. C. dust. During dry weather, filling of the axils of the central leaves in the crown with a mixture of sand and 5% B. H. C. dust in equal proportions give some protection to the palms. Various insecticides such as D. D. T., toxaphene, B. H. C.,

Chlordane, calcium arsenate etc. are also tried for the control of oryctes larvae in their breeding places.

b) The black headed caterpillar (*Nephantis serinopa*)

The caterpillar causes extensive damage to the leaves of coconut palms, especially along the coastal and back water areas. Due to its attack the vitality of the infested tree is lost, resulting in low yields. The infested trees are easily recognised by the dried up patches on the leaflets and the deposits of frass on them. The attack is especially severe during the dry months of March, April, and May. The simplest remedy is to cut off and burn all infested leaves or parts of leaves. As a measure of control spraying with D. D. T. 0.2 % has been found to be good.

c) Red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*)

This is the most destructive pest of young coconut palms. The damage caused by the weevil larvae is often fatal. It is estimated that about 0.5% of the palms are attacked by the pest every year. It is very difficult to detect its presence in the early stages of attack. The grub begins its life inside the palm and normally never comes outside. The early indications of the attack are just a few small holes in the crown from which pieces of chewed fibres protrude and a brownish viscous liquid oozes out. In many cases the drying up of the young heart leaves or splitting of the petioles near the areas of attack can be seen. The method suggested for the control of this pest is the removal of the dead and decaying trees and injection of infected trees with 1 % pyrocone-E 1 % or ED/CT mixture.

SUGARCANE

1) Shoot borers (The early shoot borer *Chilo trazea infuscatella*, The internode borer *Proceras indicus* Top shoot borer *Scirpophaga nivella*)

These caterpillars attack 1-3 months old seedlings, causing 'dead hearts.' Spraying endrin 0.1 % thrice at 21 days intervals is found effective in controlling the pests.

2) Cane leaf hopper *Pyrilla perpusilla*)

The adults and nymphs suck plant sap causing weakening of plants and loss of sugar contents. Spraying B.H.C. or D.D.T. 2% is among the ways of controlling the attack of the pest.

3) Termites

The termites attack planted cane setts and prevent sprouting. Applying aldrin 5% dust in soil is the remedial measure usually adopted.

E. Damage from fungus

1 Paddy

The paddy crop is affected by a number of fungus diseases which cause considerable decrease in yield. Among the diseases the more serious ones are blast caused by *Piricularia oryzae* and leaf blight caused by *Hemiptosporium oryzae*. Blast disease occurs in all rice growing tracts of the District and is the most serious of all the known diseases of rice. Suitable measures to combat *Piricularia oryzae* are spraying the crop 3 or 4 times with copper fungicides such as fungi copper (1 lb. in 30 gallons of water). Treating the seeds before sowing with Agrosan G. E. or cerasan at the rate of 5 oz. per cwt., balanced manuring and cultivation of resistant varieties. The growing of resistant varieties and seed treatment with Agrosan or cerasan at 5 oz. per cwt. of seed are found to be effective in counteracting the disease.

2 Coconut

The fungi attacking coconut may be classified as those affecting the bud, the leaf, the stem and the root and systemic diseases like wilts. The disease common in the District is leaf rot. Spraying the crown and leaves with bordeaux mixture or copper fungicides etc., better cultivation of the gardens and the liberal use of potassic manure are advocated to combat it.

3 Sugarcane

1 Red Rot (*Phylospora tucumanensis*) (*Colletotrichum falcatum*)

With the attack of the pest the margins of leaves yellow, shrivel and dry up. It produces long lesions on the midribs of leaves which are red or dark brown in colour. The internal tissues also can be seen as red with white transverse patches. The following treatment is usually adopted. 1) Use healthy and Resistant setts for planting, 2) Destroy infected canes. 3) Avoid ratooning in an infected crop. 4) Treat the setts with hot water for 22 minutes at 51.5°C-52.5°C.

2 Smut (*Ustilago scita minae*)

Long black whip like shoots in the apex are produced. This will be covered with a powdery mass of black spores. The removal of the whip as it appears and timely prevention of spread of spores are the ways to meet the attack of the disease.

ACTIVITIES OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

In reviewing the activities of the Agriculture Department, it may be mentioned that Alleppey District is one of the two package Districts of the State, the other being Palghat. The intensive Agricultural District programme was introduced in 1961. It operates through the 17 N. E. S. Blocks into which the District has been divided for intensive development. Though started in 1961 the package programme was extended to the whole District only by stages. During 1961-62, 5 Blocks and 16 Panchayats were covered by the programme. In the next year 5 more Blocks and 14 more Panchayats were brought within its fold and finally in 1964-65 the whole District was covered. The total cultivated area brought under the programme was 1,59,926 hectares, i. e., 100 % coverage.

The following table gives the percentage change in the area under each important crop over the years.

Percentage Change in Area under each important crop, 1960-61						
Name of Crop	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
Paddy	100	-4	+4	+4		
Coconut	100	+1	-5	-4		
Areca nut	100	+12	+22	-46	NA	NA
Pepper	100	-5	-20	-13.5		
Sugarcane	100	0	+1	+3		
Tapioca	100	1	6	-6		

It may be seen from the table above that the increase in area under cultivation of most of the crops is not substantial in the District. This is only natural, for the available area had already been cultivated even before the introduction of the programme with the result that the scope for extensive cultivation was very meagre. In fact, the change of area under a crop is often due to change-over from one crop to another by the cultivators and not due to extension of the area cultivated. A typical example is the increase in area under sugarcane in the last decade. This has been made possible at the expense of the area cultivated under paddy in Tiruvalla, Chengannur and Mavelikara Taluks.

An idea of the benefits to the cultivator through the programme can be had from an assessment of the progress achieved in the adoption of improved agricultural practices, improved implements and improved seeds and by the off-take of more and more fertilisers and plant protection chemicals etc. by the cultivators. The smooth

and easy development of agriculture requires an infrastructure suitable for its development. This has been patiently built up under the programme and is a guarantee for assured development.

From time immemorial, the Indian farmer has been the victim of exploitation by money lenders. The money lender's credit which is so necessary for him was never available in time or on easy terms. The cultivators in this District were no exception in this regard. Realising this, the programme has laid out a large net-work of credit institutions through co-operatives so that the farmers need not go any longer for credit at penal rates of interest from professional money-lenders. Similarly storage and marketing of the produce has been a thorny problem in the agricultural sector. This has also been solved to a large extent by the construction of god-down and by the co-operatives entering the market or by issuing loans to the cultivators on easy terms taking the produce as surety.

Another milestone in laying out an infrastructure for agricultural development has been covered by constructing and commissioning an Agricultural Engineering workshop at the District headquarters. The need for such a workshop has always been keenly felt in this predominantly agricultural District and its construction will go a long way in revolutionising agriculture by designing and manufacturing improved agricultural implements to replace the age old implements that are still in vogue in many parts of the District.

Similarly, a Soil Testing Laboratory has also been opened at Alleppey in November 1966. The soil types in various parts of this District vary considerably. At present manuring is done rather blindly without actually assessing the requirements of the soils of individual cultivators. This naturally leads to avoidable waste. The commissioning of the Laboratory will remedy this defect to a large extent by giving recommendations of fertiliser use to smaller units of area based on soil analysis.

A note on the progress achieved under the Package Programme in the various fields is given below.

PREPARATION OF FARM PRODUCTION PLANS

The following statistics of the number of families brought under the co-operative fold would help to get an idea of the coverage under the programme.

1	Total No. of farming families	154,279
2	No. of persons who are members of Societies	170,000
3	No. of families to whom production plans have been prepared so far	133,626

It may be noted that production plans have been prepared for more than 86% of the total families and out of the total cropped area of 159,926 hectares, 122,088 hectares have been covered by farm plans.

The total area covered by the programme as on March 1, 1967 is given below crop-wise

Name of Crop	Area in Hectares
1 Paddy	
a) Viruppu	21,342
b) Mundakan	14,928
c) Punja	43,251
2 Coconut	51,490
3 Tapioca	22,086
4 Sugarcane	4,571
5 Pepper	2,250
6 Banana	612

PROGRESS UNDER MAJOR CROPS

The programme brought under its operation only 4.6% of the area under Viruppu paddy, 6.23% under Mundakan paddy and 33.74% under punja paddy in 1961-62. In subsequent years and especially in 1963-64 and 1964-65, phenomenal progress was achieved. In 1964-65 71% of the Viruppu area, 97% of the Mundakan area and 91% of the punja area came under the programme. By 1965-66 complete coverage was obtained. Similarly 69% of the coconut area was brought under the programme in 1964-65 and full coverage was achieved in the following year. At the same time 84% of the area under tapioca was brought under the programme by 1964-65 and the entire area was covered in the succeeding year. Full coverage under sugar was achieved even in 1964-65. In the case of pepper, only 60% coverage area was obtained in 1964-65 but full coverage was obtained in 1965-66.

CREDIT

Co-operative credit was not a familiar idea before the introduction of the programme. Initially 26 societies were selected for the

implementation of the programme with a membership of 10, 305 and paid-up capital of Rs. 2, 83, 077. The membership in these societies had increased to 13, 349 and share capital to Rs. 4, 84, 671 by June 30, 1962. In the co-operative year 1962-63, 36 societies were additionally selected and in 1963-64 another 36 societies. The total increase in membership in these societies was 6, 947 and share capital Rs. 5, 47, 907.

The achievement in the initial year was not very substantial. In 1961-62 only a sum of Rs. 11, 732 was issued to 106 cultivators. From this small beginning the credit system spread so wide that in 1966-67 there were 21 money credit societies and a sum of Rs 86.08 lakhs had been issued. The amounts advanced by way of short term loans in each of the years from 1961-62 to 1966-67 are given below:-

Rs. in lakhs

1961-62	0. 19
1962-63	8. 66
1963-64	18. 97
1964-65	31. 76
1965-66	36. 57
1966-67	86. 68

MANURING

The fertiliser habit which is so slow to spread has got a strong hold on the cultivators by now. The progressive increase in the off-take of chemical fertilisers is an index in this regard. Manure mixtures are supplied to cultivators by the following firms. a) F. A. C.T., Alwaye, b) Shaw Wallace & co., Ltd., Madras, c) T. Stanes & Co., Ltd., and d) E. I. D. party Ltd. The off take of fertiliser for each of the years from 1960-61 to 1966-67 is given below:-

	Aumonium Sulphate Tons	Super phosphate Tons	Murate of Potash Tons
1961-62	2,672	3,936	1,494
1962-63	3,310	4,797	1,852
1963-64	4,489	5,217	2,301
1964-65	10,630	13,314	3,550
1965-66	9,140	8,778	2,708
1966-67	8,065	7,850	3,140

The green manure and the local manurial programmes have also been successful to a certain extent in the District. Rural composts are produced by the cultivators and urban composts by Alleppey and Kayamkulam Municipalities. Cow dung is available from the country parts as well as in Municipal areas. At the same time, green manure is produced at the farm site.

PLANT PROTECTION

The cultivators in this District have become more and more conscious of the benefits of using pesticides and fungicides. Whereas in 1961-62 the quantity of pesticides was 29.9 tons in solid form, and 737.7 litres in liquid form, the off-take had increased to 88.7 tons and 7,074.1 litres respectively in 1965-66. Only 269 equipments were sold to cultivators at 50% subsidy in 1961-62. The number rose to 415 in 1962-63, to 559 in 1963-64 and to 911 in 1964-65. The details of the distribution are given below:-

	61-62	62-63	63-64	64-65	65-66	66-67
Insecticides						
Solids-tons	28.4	42.2	21	71	159.5	183.134
Liquids-Ltrs.	173.0	830.0	2,271	7,074	12,165.0	14,436.00
Fungicides-tons	1.4	2.0	3.1	17.2	38.9	43.00
Sprayers No2	257.0	411.0	528.0	611.0	..	..
Dusters	12.0	4.0	26.0	60.0	..	..
Area covered in hectares	29,600.0	24,500.0	42,300.0	46,110	55,451	67,00.00

In addition, the rodent control campaign, seed treatment campaign and area wide prophylactic spraying campaign were also undertaken very successfully. Three Service Co-operative Societies came forward to organise the prophylactic spraying campaign. Similarly two Panchayats led the rodent control campaign. The Service Co-operative Societies have played a big part in the seed treatment campaign. Even electric seed dressers were used for the campaign. In one area (Kanjikuzhy) 90% of the seeds sown were pre-treated during the campaign period.

Another important item of work is coconut spraying. The achievement till the end of 1966-67 was 1,452,446 sprayings. This programme for the control of coconut disease is being entrusted to the Panchayats in certain select areas. Spraying materials, equipments, necessary funds and the personnel for the supervision of the work have been entrusted to the Panchayats. Organisational and

vigilance committees have been formed at ward and Panchayat levels.

Further, the liberation of parasites for the control of *Nephantis serinopa* is also in progress. Till the end of 1966-67, 128,886 parasites had been liberated in the affected areas of this District. The work of rodent control was taken up on an organised basis covering 2 Blocks each in 1965-66 and 1966-67. It is proposed to extend the scheme to the remaining Blocks in due course.

SEED DEVELOPMENT

The seeds are at present being received from Agricultural Research Stations and State Seed Farms. The Research Stations supply breeder seeds to State Seed Farms. The latter multiply them and supply foundation seeds to registered seed growers. The registered seed growers in turn supply registered seeds to the Agriculture Department under the seed multiplication and distribution scheme and the Department distributes these registered seeds again to the cultivators in bulk quantities. There are no other agencies other than the above for seed distribution.

In 1961-62, only 96.35 MT. of improved seeds were distributed in the District, but by 1966-67 about 354 MTs. of improved seeds had been distributed. The details for each year are given below.

1961-62	6.35
1962-63	135.5
1963-64	172.00
1964-65	397.0
1965-66	330.70
1966-67	353.72

Marked improvement was registered in the distribution of coconut seedlings, tapioca stems, pepper cuttings, arecanut seedlings and fruit plants in 1964-65. The number of Seed Stores which was 2 in 1961-62 rose to 48 in 1966-67 in the various Blocks of the District.

SUPPLY of Agricultural Implements

The details of the supply of agricultural implements and machinery from the Department of Agriculture during the three years 1964-65 to 1966-67 are given below:-

1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
Nos.	Nos.	Nos.

1 Iron ploughs	471	477	335
2 Others	78	6	297
3 Pumpsets	37	50	268
4 Tractors	3	3	3
5 Power tillers	—	—	10

To demonstrate and popularise tractor ploughing and other agricultural operations by using improved implements 13 tractors had been purchased by the Department of Agriculture and given to different Blocks in this District till the end of 1966-67. This has created an awareness for better tillage among the cultivators. Tractors are being supplied on hire purchase system from the Department of Agriculture.

STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

The amounts of loans sanctioned by the Agricultural Department under the various schemes for agricultural development in the District from 1960-61 to 1964-65 are given below.

Scheme	AMOUNT				
	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1 Reclamation of Kayal Lands	Nil	Nil	65,662	1,99,200	2,55,080.50
2 Pepper Development	„	„	1,650.00	12,248.50	8,830.00
3 Horticultural Depot	„	„	400.00	750.00	1,000.00
4 Food Crops (Issue of pumpset etc.)	„	„	25,076.70	37,591.23	19,472.58
5 Coconut Development	„	„	Nil	27,464.76	80,079.00
6 Purchase of work animals	„	„	„	60,580.00	2,12,150.00
7 Distribution of manures	„	1,61,817.81	1,09,558.93	1,13,906.40	30,118.15

Besides the above, the details of the Land Improvement loans and Permanent Bund loans sanctioned for agricultural development by the Revenue Department from 1960-61 to 1964-65 are given below.

Year	Amount of Land Improvement Loans Rs.	Amount of Permanent Bond Loans Rs.
1960-61	92,126.00	13 000 00
1961-62	1,58,150.00	..
1962-63	1,37,075.00	18,300 00
1963-64	85,140.00	..
1964-65	34,725.00	.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS

COCONUT RESEARCH STATION, KAYAMKULAM

One of the premier institutions in the field is the Coconut Research Station, Kayamkulam. It was established in April 1948 under the auspices of the Indian Central Coconut Committee constituted by the Government of India for the development of cultivation, marketing and utilisation of coconut in India. The station has altogether 61 acres of coconut garden with more than 3,000 palms in different stages of health and disease. The laboratories for plant pathology including Virus pathology, plant physiology, Soil Chemistry and Entomology functioning as part of the station are housed in a 2 storied building. Besides there are ancillary installations such as the Insect Proof House, the Insectory with an air conditioned room for breeding parasites, the pot culture house, the air-conditioned serological laboratory and a 50 ft. meteorological tower. In addition to research, the station undertakes advisory work and imparts training on the improved methods of crop protection to agricultural, statistical and extension workers.

The main aim of the station is however, to undertake organised research with a view to controlling the diseases and pests of coconut prevalent in India. Two important diseases of coconut, (the root wilt and the leaf rot) are studied at this station besides some others like stem bleeding. Laboratory and field trials using different insecticides against Rhinoceros beetle, one of the major pests of coconut, are in progress in the station. Investigation on the biological control of this pest are being carried out. Large scale trials are being undertaken to study the efficacy of different chemicals against the attack of red palm weevil. Against leaf eating

caterpillar, control trials with single action insecticides are being carried out. Indigenous parasites against the pest are bred at the station on a large scale and supplied to different localities where the infection is prevalent. Studies on biology and insecticidal control of cockchafer beetle are in progress. Studies on the less serious pests are also being pursued.

Studies on the resultant effect of the application of insecticides on the manurial value of cattle-dung in the case of Rhinoceros beetle control, phytotoxicity, if any, of the chemical injected in the case of the control of the leaf eating caterpillar and the cumulative effect of residues of insecticides left in the soils in the control of coco-chaffer grubs are the important problems envisaged to be undertaken. Studies on the nematodes associated with the coconut palm are also Proposed to be pursued.

Advisory work by means of supplying leaflets on various diseases and Pests of coconuts, contributing articles on newer scientific approaches to coconut protection, lectures and demonstration are among the other activities of this Institution.

REGIONAL RICE RESEARCH STATION, MANKOPU

This station was established as early as 1940 with the idea of evolving improved varieties of paddy for the Kuttanad area and distributing them to cultivators. Mo₁ and Mo₂ which are medium duration varieties (90-100 days) giving 20-30% increased yield over local variety have been released to cultivators from this station. Mo₁ has got the capacity for withstanding acidity and salinity. Among the large number of varieties tried at the station PTB 10 and Ch 10 (short duration) were found to be most suitable to the area.

With the changing conditions like controlling of floods and early dewatering of fields it was found possible to grow medium and long duration varieties which give more yield than those of short duration. Research programmes at the station were oriented and a large number of improved indigenous and exotic strains were tried with a view to studying their performance. From the results obtained it was concluded that the medium duration varieties G.S. 565 and PTB 20 giving an average yield of 4,700 Kgs. and 4,400 Kgs. per hectare respectively are promising strains. The strain G.S. 565 has given 29% increase over the local variety Athikkira, while PTB 20 has given 24% increase. PTB 20 has been recommended and popularised among the ryots. Work was also undertaken to evolve

suitable flood-resistant deep water varieties suitable for the second crop season (April-September). HabiSanj I has been found to be a good flood-resistant variety.

REGIONAL RICE RESEARCH STATION, KAYAMKULAM

This station was established in 1934. It has an area of 29 acres. The research carried on at this station is on paddy. The famous improved strain U.R. 19 was evolved at this station. It is very popular among the ryots carrying on cultivation in the sandy areas of the Station. The strain gives about 30% increased yield. Experiments regarding methods of sowing have revealed the fact that local method of dibbling behind the plough is the best one for sowing this seed. The experiments conducted have also shown that the best spacing found suitable for this seed is 6" x 6". Manual trials have shown that NPK at 40, 60 and 60 lbs. gives maximum yield.

OIL SEED RESEARCH STATION, KAYAMKULAM

The Station was started in 1957 with the idea of conducting research on oil seeds like Sesamum, ground-nut etc. It is housed in the Rice Research Station, Kayamkulam.

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL FARM, MAVELIKARA

This farm was set up in June 1964 as part of the programme for establishing 900 acre composite farms in each District of the State. It is situated in the Iazhakara Panchayat and covers an area of nearly 96 acres acquired at a total cost of Rs. 7,83,004. The object of the farm is to establish a permanent horticulture station with a view to meeting the requirements in quality planting materials of fruits, spices, vegetable seeds etc. Permanent plants like mango, sapota, mangosteen, coconut, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, lime, lemon, cocoa, pepper, cashew and pine apple are planted in about 51 acres in this Farm. Moreover, seasonal crops like snake gourd, lady's finger, amaranthus etc. are also processed here for distribution. Nurseries in arecanut, coconut, pepper, nutmeg, clove and cinnamon are attached to the Farm.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

LIVESTOCK POPULATION

The Taluk-wise figures of the livestock population in the District as per the Livestock Census of 1961 are given below:—

LIVESTOCK POPULATION OF 1961

	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Poultry
Total	299,257	15,012	2,138	88,368	1,085,647
Shertallai	28,638	349	3	13,238	113,952
Ambalapuzha	22,559	1,166	37	11,656	87,809
Kaithikapally	41,012	2,411	290	9,192	136,068
Mavelikara	63,117	1,484	939	15,964	114,231
Chengannur	50,474	1,382	40	11,187	164,118
Iruvalla	70,356	3,636	790	20,172	247,437
Kuttanad	23,201	4,554	39	6,959	272,032

The local non-descript animals bred in this District are able to meet only the partial requirements of the people. For draught, milk and meat purposes large numbers of livestock are brought into the District from the neighbouring Districts of Madras State. A few cross bred animals are also imported by commercial dairy owners by rail or lorry from Coimbatore.

PRICE OF LIVESTOCK

A statement of the prices of different categories of cattle is given below.

	Price (Rs.)
Dairy cows per litre of milk morning yield	84 to 128
Buffaloes ..	77 to 123
Goats ..	67 to 88
Draught bullocks (breed non descript) Each Rs.	167 to 300
Cattle for slaughter (non descript)	45 to 60
Young stock (Age 1-2 years) Each	55 to 95
Draught buffaloes (non descript) Each	125 to 160
Buffaloes slaughter (non descript)	44 to 60
Young stock buffaloes (non descript)	37 to 60
Goats for slaughter each	35 to 40

AREA UNDER FODDER CROPS

Compared to other Districts of Kerala, Alleppey has a special place as regards fodder resources. Some Taluks are almost self-sufficient in the matter of fodder. Paddy straw is the main staple food of cattle and it is obtained in abundance from the paddy fields

of the District. Bundles of straw from Kuttanad are often brought to the town areas and sold, but the supply of green grass is not sufficient to meet the requirements. Napier and Guinea grasses are very seldom seen. These types of grass are, however, grown in the grass demonstration plots in some of the Blocks of the District.

SHEEP BREEDING

There is no sheep breeding centre in the District, though a good variety of goats and sheep is bred in most places. Very scant attention is, however, being paid to their proper care and breeding. Grass lands are dwindling with the extension of the area under cereals with the result that there is great dearth of feeds for sheep and goats.

IMPROVEMENT OF CATTLE

In view of the highly unproductive quality of live-stock, it is essential that proper attention is paid to the development of cattle in the District. The activities of the Government consist, among other things, mainly of scientific breeding and prevention and control of diseases.

There are 11 Key Village Centres in this District. Grading up of cattle is carried out in these centres by artificial insemination centres using the semen of Sindhi bulls. In addition, there is a Key Village Block at Mavelikara with 10 sub-centres:

There are 8 Veterinary Hospitals and 33 Veterinary Dispensaries located at various places. Besides carrying out routine treatment of animals, they conduct prophylactic vaccination against contagious diseases of cattle like Rinderpest, Black Quarter, Anthrax, Haemorrhagic septicaemia etc. and poultry diseases like Ranikhet Disease and Fowl pox.

POULTRY

Though poor in cattle wealth, this District is rich in poultry¹. The livestock Census of 1951 places the poultry population at 1,085,647. This forms 11.97% of the total poultry in the State. The common people have come to understand the value of poultry as a source of subsidiary income and therefore there has been of late a

1 The number of poultry in the State per 1,000 of population was 538 according to the 1961 Census.

substantial increase in the number of poultry-keepers. Indeed it is at Chengannur in Alleppey District that the major Hatchery in the State is located. An account of this institution is given below.

The Central Hatchery, Chengannur was started in October 1961 with the object of organising poultry husbandry work in a systematic manner and giving better facilities for the farmers to stir up the poultry industry. The principal work of the Central Hatchery is the breeding and development of poultry. The hatching eggs are received from the District Poultry Farms, private poultry breeders and co-operative societies. The District Farms supply the hatching eggs from the pure bred strain of White Leghorn and Rhode Island maintained by them. The chicks are reared and maintained in the Hatchery and for the prevention of disease they are vaccinated against R.D., Pox etc. at the proper time. Special feed additions are used for protecting them against Coccidiosis and common bacterial diseases. The distribution of chicks to the private poultry breeders and co-operative societies is done either direct or through the agency of the N.E.S. Blocks.

Kerala is extremely poor with regard to nutritious feed for poultry. It is essential that adequate quantities of balanced feed should be provided to poultry breeders at a reasonably low cost. A poultry feed compounding factory has therefore been started in the premises of the Central Hatchery for the manufacture and sale of balanced poultry feed.

The following table will give an idea of the work done by the Hatchery since its inception till the end of 1965.

1 No. of chicks hatched out	213,373
2 No. of Poultry Breeding Co-operative Societies organised	43
3 No. of Regional Marketing Co-operative Society	1
4 Demonstration Poultry Units started	30

DAIRYING

The per capita availability of milk in the District is only 1.65 oz. which is lower than in any other District in the State. In Alleppey town with a population exceeding 1.5 lakhs the per capita availability of milk is only 1.41 oz. This represents only 1/7th of the minimum requirement for the maintenance of normal health. The price of milk in the area is also probably the highest in the country.

The low production and high cost of milk are due to the adverse conditions of the area such as the high cost of maintenance of cattle, lack of cheap and nutritious fodder and the water logged and sandy nature of the soil. The localities within and around the Municipal limits of Alleppey are not favourable for commercial milk production and hence there appears to be little scope for the development of milk production within a 15 km. radius of the town. The only alternative to meet the increasing demand for milk is to supplement the present scanty supply of fresh milk in the area with recombined milk and to take steps for the development of economic milk production in the more suitable areas in the District.

With a view to surmounting the difficulty experienced in obtaining enough milk for consumption, it is proposed to establish a Pilot Recombined Milk Plant at Alleppey with an initial capacity of 5,000-10,000 kgs. of milk. This would ensure the steady supply of cheap nutritious milk at a price within the reach of all income groups of the community. The assistance of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign of the F.A.O. is sought for the supply of imported items of dairy equipment and the required butter oil and skim milk powder for the production of recombined milk for a period of 5 years. The F.A.O. experts had recently visited the place and they had discussions with the State Government officials on the details of the scheme. The scheme is under the active consideration of the F.A.O. It is also proposed to organise Dairy Extension Service Units in connection with the Milk Scheme for Alleppey. This would help the production of milk on economic lines by providing financial assistance and technical guidance to the milk producers for better feeding, breeding and management of cattle and hygienic milk production.

There are 6 Co-operative Milk Supply Societies in this District. They have a total membership of 967 persons and their capital comes to Rs. 17,631. The quantity of milk collected and sold by them in 1963-64 was 230,154 litres and 181,727 litres respectively. The average selling price per litre came to 94 paise.

FISHERIES

IMPORTANCE OF FISHERIES IN THE ECONOMY OF THE DISTRICT

Alleppey has a fairly long coast line (81.7 km) and a vast extent of inland waters which give her a very important place in respect of fishery resources and fishing activities. The coast line is fairly even with two seasonal bar mouth openings, viz., (1) the Kayamkulam

bar mouth situated 6 miles due northwest of Kayamkulam town and (2) the Andhakara bar mouth in Shertallai Taluk. A temporary opening into the sea has recently come into vogue at Tottapalli consequent upon the construction of the spillway which functions for barely three months during the south-west monsoon. The Vembanad and the Kayamkulam backwaters and a network of canals and streams that flow into them have further enriched the water potential and the fishery wealth of the District.

CHAKARA

The geographical features of the Alleppey District bear a direct influence on the fishery resources. Though appreciable slices of reclamation have recently been made from the shallow regions of the backwaters the fishery potential still remains fairly exploitable. The coastal marine fisheries contribute the major share of the annual fishery output from the District. The continental shelf of Alleppey is without any rocky or coral formations and thus affords excellent beds for trawling operations by mechanised vessels. The tidal influence is moderately felt, the maximum height of the tides varying between 2.5 feet to 3.5 feet only. In considering the fishery wealth of the District one has to take note of the fact that there is an annual recurring coastal phenomenon called *Chakara* near Ambalapuzha nearly 8 miles due south of Alleppey town. This is the local term given to the formation of the mud bank extending 3 to 4 miles in length and a mile to a mile and a half in width. It appears during the south-west monsoon. The fishing village Purakkad which lies close to Chakara has got much historical importance. It is also of particular significance that every year this mud bank attracts a heavily exploited prawn fishery and considering the value of prawns from the fishery point of view, it fetches a sizable national income.

As stated earlier, the Alleppey District enjoys the benefit of both marine and inland fish landings. Of the marine species, Sardine, Mackerel and Prawns form the major economically important species while varieties like silver bellies, soles, *Lactarius*, cat fish and *Opisthopterus* constitute species of minor importance. During the year 1965-66 Alleppey District had a total marine fish landing of 20,791.8 M. Tonnes, the value of which would be equal to Rs 1,58,20,623.

INLAND FISHERIES

As regards inland fisheries the most common types are Mullet, *Etrophus* (Pearlspot) Murrels, *Barbus*, *Wallagonia*, Cat fish *Murunga*

and Eel (including spiny eel) in the order of importance indicated above. During the year 1965—66 there was a landing of 5,236 53 M Tonnes of inland varieties in Alleppey District having a value of Rs. 6,34 665.

The inland fisheries comprises of purely fresh water, estuarine and brackish water types. "Free Nets" (all nets other than those under 'fixed engines' and operated in the backwaters are classified free nets) together with a number of annually licensed "fixed engines" like stake nets, china nets and big sized bamboo traps (Perumkuda) are used for trapping these varieties. In Alleppey District 3,919 stake nets, 1084 china nets and 1,289 free nets were used in 1965. The last mentioned contrivance is used exclusively during the monsoon floods along the river banks for trapping the big varieties like *Wallagonia* and *Barbus*.

While considering the inland fishery resources of Alleppey District, one has to take special note of the Kuttanad region which is comprised of the annually inundated paddy fields and their related canal systems. The region forms the fresh water basin where many a variety of fresh water fish as also the important fresh water prawn (*Micro-branchium*) take their resort for breeding purposes. When the South-West monsoon starts, the torrential rivers flowing through the District bring down the flood waters from the High Ranges and during this season large congregation of breeding fresh water fishes like *Wallagonia*, Murrels, the Spiny Eels, *Barbus* etc. become active. In the course of this season of breeding activity the capture of these varieties is resorted to on a large scale in the canals and inundated paddy fields, giving rise to the very popular fishing phenomenon called (*Utha Visu*). Literally this term means catching the breeders with cast nets. A number of improvised contrivances are also employed in this annual fishing operation and some of the implements used in this connection are *Othul*, Madavala small types of traps made of coconut midribs (*Kochukudu*), Chunda (hook and line) etc.

In the inland section in Alleppey District there are 1,441 stake nets and 264 china nets. Regarding the actual number of traps used no correct statistical information is yet available. But from the annual issue of licences to this particular type of fishing implement it is estimated that on an average about 200 of such implements are used.

FISH CURING YARDS

Fish is cured by conventional methods. Most of the catches are sold in fresh condition for edible purposes. Fish is preserved usually when the catches cannot be disposed of in fresh condition. The traditional methods are the sundrying and wet processes. The District has six fish curing yards at Azhikal, Kallikad, Tottappalli, Tamboli, Palluhode and Arathinkal. A statement of operations in the six fish curing yards during 1965-66 is given below:-

Fish let in qtls.	2,719.50
Fish let out in qtls.	1,782.20
Salt issued in qtls.	543.20

ICE AND COLD STORAGE FACTORIES

There are three public ice or cold storage factories in this District. They are at Kayamkulam, Alleppey and Chengannur. The details of these factories are given below:—

Institution	Year of Establishment	Ice Production capacity per day (M.T)	Ice Storage capacity per day (M.T)	Fresh fish storage capacity (M.T)
Ice Factory				
Kayamkulam	1961	5	15	15
Ice and cold storage plant	Alleppey	5	25	7
Cold Storage Unit,	Under construction		Simple cold storage Unit of 1 ton capacity	
Chengannur				

About 15 ice plants varying in production capacity from 5 to 20 tonnes have been set up in the District by private enterprises. Some of these units also provide freezing facilities. The most important units working in the field are the Southern Fisheries Corporation, Tottappalli, the Kerala Food Packers, Alleppey, the Crescent Ice and Cold Storage Alleppey, the National Ice Factory, Alleppey and Pothen Joseph and Sons, Alleppey.

FISH FARMS

A fresh water Fish Farm is under construction at Edathua. It is a scheme sponsored by the I.C.A.R. and is meant for a study of the bionomics of *Palaemon* farming with *cyprinus carpio* in paddy

fields, The bionomical studies of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and planktological and hydrological studies of water in all the fish farm are being carried out.

PRICE OF FISH

The cost of fresh fish is not settled by weight but by counts in the case of big fishes and heaps and basketfuls in the case of smaller varieties. It is difficult to specify exactly the prices paid for different varieties as their prices fluctuate from season to season and from place to place. However, the following table will throw some light on the prices of different species,

Varieties	Price per kg
Sardine	0.50
Maceral	4.50
Lactarius cat fish	4.00
Prawns	5.50
Opisthopterus	1.50
Silver bellies	1.50
Solea	1.00
Mulleta	2.06
Etroplus	3.50
Murrels	2.70
Barbus	1.25
Wallagonia	3.25
Cat Fish	0.75
Macronis	0.50
Shark	1.25
Miscellaneous (Mixture)	0.25
Nuri meen	0.50

FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The fisheries development scheme envisages the establishment of Co-operative Societies in important fishing villages. The idea is to supply the fisherfolk with credit and fishing equipments (eg. boats, nets etc.) and to provide storage and marketing facilities. There are 89 Fishermen's Co-operative Societies in the District. These include 50 fishermen Producer Societies (Malsya Utpadaka Co-operative Societies) and two Regional Marketing Societies organised for the benefit of the actual sea-going fishermen with a view to pooling the catches and arranging for the marketing of the catch through Co-operatives. The financial assistance to these

societies by way of subsidy, grant and loan came to about Rs. 3000 during 1965-65.

CENSUS OF FISHERMEN

The following table used on the census taken by the Department of Fisheries in 1958 shows the position of the number of households of fishermen in the District, the craft and gears used by them, their indebtedness etc.

Number of households	4,954
Total number of members in the household	31,806
Average strength of the household	6.4
Big Boats	
a) Plant-built boats	363
b) Dugouts	228
c) Average per household	0.12
Small Boats	
a) Plant-built boats	454
b) Dugouts	373
c) Average per household	0.17
Catamaran	134
Nets	
a) Shore seine	490
b) Boat seine	324
c) Drift net	1,735
d) Average per household	0.62
Line and Works (Sets)	105
Income	Rs. 31,09,564
Average income	Rs. 426
Debt	Rs. 13,01,969
Asset	Rs. 55,821
Average debt per household	
a) For debtors only	Rs. 356
b) For all	Rs. 263

FORESTS IN THE ALLEPPEY DISTRICT

Only the Taluk of Tiruvalla in the District has some forests. The area covered comes to about 1,265 acres. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ranni Range of the Ranni Forest Division. The forests are mostly of the Evergreen Type. No extraction of timber is at present

done since the forests come under the proposed Valiyakavu reserve

No plantations are raised within the Revenue District of Alleppey.

VIYAPURAM FOREST DEPOT

There is a Forest Depot at Viyapuram, in Karthikapally Taluk. Started about 1068 K. E. (1892—93 A.D.) it is functioning under the Divisional Forest Officer, Ranni. Timber extracted from the Reserve Forest falling under the Revenue District of Quilon in the Ranni Forest Division is brought down to Viyapuram Forest Depot and sold in monthly auctions. The average monthly sale of timber here comes to about Rs. 1 lakh. One Ranger, one Clerk and three watchers are attending to this work.

FAMINE, FLOODS

Alleppey District has not been free from natural calamities like famines and floods. The year 1036 K. E. (1861) was one of exceptional scarcity. The District suffered a lot along with the other areas of the then Travancore State. The *Administration Report of Travancore* for the year observes as follows about this scarcity. "There was much distress in consequence of the failure of crops. The price of food rose higher than ever known before and thousands of men, women and children had no resource but charity to look for bare existence. The Sirkar was not wanting in exertions to mitigate this distress as far as it lay in its power. Food was given gratuitously to the poor in several localities as also cloths, small sums of money and other similar aids. Such as were able contributed largely to the relief. The British Government kindly granted the request of the Sirkar to suspend the duty on the exports of grain and rice to Travancore from British territory and this concession in conjunction with a similar removal of import duty on the part of the Sirkar contributed to the influx into the country of a large quantity of food. Paddy to the cost of Rs. 50,000 was gratuitously given to the poor. About Rs. 12,000 worth of rice was purchased by the Sirkar at Mangalore and brought down here and re-sold to the poor at rates advantageous to them. Grain and rice to the value of Rs. 12,00,000 was imported into Travancore from abroad¹"

¹ Travancore State Manual. Vol. III T. K. Velu Pillai, p. 85.

The year 1119 (1825) was also another year of severe drought for the District along with other parts of the then Travancore State. Both the monsoons were indifferent. The north-east monsoon practically stopped by the end of October and was followed by a period of seven months with no rain. The south-west monsoon was also not strong. The result was that crops failed in all the seasons. With a view to mitigate the hardships of the ryots and the consequent economic depression, remission to the extent of 18½ per cent of the land tax on port-settlement Kayal reclamations in the Taluks of Ambalapuzha, Changanacherry and Kottayam was granted. A remission of 12.5 per cent of land tax was allowed on all other lands including lands cultivated with rubber.

As for floods, those of 1057 K.E. (1881-82), 1099 K.E. (1923-24) and 1137 (1961) were of exceptional severity. About the first the following is the observation made in the *Travancore State Administration Report* of 1057 K. E. (1881-82) "The unprecedentedly heavy rains in the north resulted in destructive floods which caused much damage to property and some loss to life. This necessity caused great distress among the poorer classes of the population". For several years thereafter there had been no serious devastation by floods. But the floods of 1099 (1924) proved to be highly disastrous. The unprecedentedly heavy rains that fell towards the close of the south west monsoon during the year resulted in unusual floods in all the rivers. The low-lying lands of Kuttanad sustained the heaviest damage. Habitations, public buildings, communications and crops alike suffered. The Kanni (Truppu) crop was practically lost and the seedlings of Kumbham (Mundakan) crop damaged in most cases. There was considerable loss of cattle and human lives.

The floods of 1961 were unprecedented in their impact. The Changanur-Tiruvalla road was totally cut off. A boat carrying 21 students capsized at Kadupara in Tiruvalla and a 14 year old girl was drowned on July 4, 1961. All bus traffic was suspended. Alleppey and neighbouring areas were in high floods. In Kuttanad the water level had risen to 4 feet from the ground level and nearly 1,000 huts were washed away. All the dry lands and house sites were under water. The Kulappala cultivation in the villages of Kozhimukha and Talavady was destroyed. Suffering was widespread throughout Kuttanad. About 2,500 families, mainly agricultural

1 Travancore State Manual, Vol. III p. 86.

labourers, had no gainful occupation on account of the incessant rains. The entire upper Kuttanad area of Tiruvalla and Chengannur Taluks except the villages of Mezhuveli, Mulakuzha and Tonallur was badly hit. The Pamba, Manimala and Achercoil rivers were in spate. All the roads leading to the western regions of Tiruvalla Taluk were completely under water. A whirl-wind for about an hour occurred in the Alumthuruthykara of the Kavnmbhagom village on June 27, 1961 and several houses and plantations were destroyed. The Government Lower Primary School of the locality was completely damaged. In the Industrial areas of Alleppey, the oil mills and coir godowns were closed. The areas that were most severely affected lay in the upper region of Kuttanad, the granary of Kerala. Vast stretches of paddy lands reclaimed from the back waters were completely under water and even the bigger bunds were submerged. About 6,000 families living in the Kaval and low-lying areas of the Taluk were in indigent circumstances. The Alleppey—Changanacherry highway was submerged for more than three-fourth of its distance. The inhabitants moved out to places of safety. Further north the Periyar river flooded vast areas. From the backwater areas 91 persons were rescued and taken to Alleppey. From Tottappally area 200 families were evacuated.

The fishermen in the Tottappally area and the residents of Chetticad area in Mararikulam village underwent untold miseries. In Mavelikara also there had been considerable damage to houses and cultivation. The worst affected areas were Thonallur, Mavelikara and Chettikulangara villages. In Arattupuzha and Puthupally localities of Karthikapally Taluk, the sea became very rough and brine water flowed into the lands adjacent to the coast. Tannirmukkam, Kokothamangalam, Turavur and Vayalar were the areas of Shertallat Taluk seriously affected by floods. In Purakkad, Mararikulam, Putupally, Arattupuzha, Trikkunnapuzh, Turavur and Vayalar many houses were destroyed and coconut trees uprooted. About 17,412 acres of land under paddy were destroyed. A sum of Rs.96,550 was disbursed from the Revenue Department till September 18, 1961 as cash grants to the victims of floods for reconstruction of houses. Tapioca chips worth Rs. 2,000 and 966 bags of rice were distributed among the people in the flood stricken areas.

SEA EROSION

Another natural calamity which seriously affects the coastal areas of the District is sea erosion. Sea erosion on the coastal areas

of the District, often a common feature in the past, has now become an annual calamity, spreading fear and anxiety in the minds of the residents of the locality and causing havoc to property. It generally occurs during the annual south-west monsoon when the Arabian Sea gets turbulent and its waves dash against the shores with a sort of vindictive fury destroying everything that lies in its path. The worst affected are the coastal areas of Ambalapuzha, Purakkad, Tannirmukkam, Tottappally, Trikkunnappuzha, Azhikka, Srayikkad etc. To counteract the onslaught of the rushing waves sea walls and groynes are constructed by the Government from time to time. The Executive Engineer (Major Irrigation) Qilon who attended to the work has so far completed 3,600' of sea wall in portions between Tottappally and Trikkunnappuzha, 9 groynes at Azhikkal, 13 groynes at Srayikkad.



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CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

The Alleppey District is an industrially backward area when compared to other Districts of the State. Nevertheless, it has its own place in the industrial map of Kerala. Some typical industries of Kerala like Coir and Coconut Oil Milling have flourished here from very ancient times and they continue to dominate the industrial economy of the District even today. The undue dependence on Coir and Coconut Oil Mills has, however, made the industrial development of Alleppey District rather unbalanced. In fact, there is a paucity of other major industries in this District as may be seen from the following table which shows the distribution of registered factories as on December 31, 1964.

Distribution of Factories as on December 31, 1964.

Industry		No. of factories	No. of workers
Total		279	14,039
1	Canning fish and other sea foods	1	18
2	Sugar	2	1,184
3	Oil Mills	94	738
4	Cashew factories	6	6,466
5	Other food articles except beverages	8	206
6	Coir	112	4,345
7	Umbrellas	3	35
8	Saw Mills	1	9
9	Other timber industries	8	220
10	Paper board, straw board and other paper products	1	25
11	Printing and binding	17	159
12	Rubber and rubber products	3	182
13	Artificial manures	1	15
14	Pharmaceuticals	1	33
15	Other chemicals	4	55
16	Bricks and tiles	4	88
17	Basic metal industries	2	28
18	Metal products except machinery and transport equipments	1	18
19	General and jobbing engineering	1	16
20	Electrical machinery	1	46

21	Repair of motor vehicles	1	68
22	Other industries not classified above	7	85

POWER

Hydro-Electric power was introduced in Alleppey District in 1940. The Pallivasal and Sengulam Hydro-Electric Stations (Kottayam District) constitute the chief source of power supply to this District. There are 66 KV Sub-stations at Alleppey, Mavelikara and Tiruvalla and another is proposed to be erected at Shertallai. The Kerala State Electricity Board is in charge of the distribution of electric power. The main Officers concerned with the distribution are the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Mavelikara and the Executive Engineer, Electrical Transmission Division, Pallam (Kottayam). The details regarding the number of towns and villages electrified, the number of consumers and number of street lights as on March 31, 1965 are given below.

1	Number of towns and villages electrified as on March 31, 1965	268
2	Number of consumers of power as on March 31, 1965	29,422
3	Number of street lights	8,969

There are no Hydro-Electric Projects in Alleppey District.

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

Apart from coir and oil milling there were a number of other small old-time industries spread throughout the District. Among these may be mentioned handloom weaving, toddy tapping, lace and embroidery, bell-metal industry, bronze casting etc. Almost all these industries continue to exist in some form or other even today.

HEAVY AND LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

There are no heavy or large scale industries as such in this District. Those that flourish are mainly small or cottage industries. The two industries worth mentioning in this context are Coir and Coconut Oil Milling. In addition, there are a few others such as Sugar, Handloom, Sand Bricks, Cashew, Rubber, Motion Picture, etc. Brief accounts of the above industries are given below.

COIR INDUSTRY

Alleppey is the traditional home of the coir industry in Kerala. A survey conducted by the Coir Board in 1962-63 revealed that out of 1,708 coir industrial establishments in Kerala 1,634 were located in the Alleppey District. The manufacture of coir yarn has been in

vogue in the State from time immemorial. The word "Coir" seems to have been introduced in European literature by Marco Polo, the celebrated Italian traveller of the 13th century. Records are left of his frequent visits to India and of his having seen the Arabs sewing the planks of their ships with Coir Yarn. The Arabs must have carried on the trade in Coir between India, Arabia and Europe much earlier than Marco Polo, even as they carried on the trade in spices. It may therefore, be safely assumed that Coir making was a traditional occupation of the Malabar coast from very ancient times and its present stature as Kerala's largest cottage industry is the natural outcome of centuries of growth.

Coir is the fibre extracted from the husks of coconut. The predominance of the coir industry in the Alleppey District is due to a variety of factors. A major factor is the presence of brackish lakes and lagoons ideally suited for the retting of husks at regular distances. The presence of mere brackish water alone is not enough but it has to be replenished at regular intervals by fresh water so as to wash away the water contaminated by the rotting of green husks. Such rivers are abundant in the District and these are favourable factors which have helped considerably the growth of the coir industries in this area. The availability of plenty of coconuts from the lowlands on either side of the lakes and even from hinterland accessible by good roads and canals, the presence of brackish lakes and lagoons at regular distances and above all, the presence of a set of hard-working and industrious people who carry on this industry have contributed greatly to the advancement of the coir industry in Alleppey.

In the past coir manufacture was a cottage industry to which the womenfolk of the poor and the lower middle classes resorted as an off-time occupation. The spinning wheel was unknown in those days. Hand spinning alone was carried on. The introduction of the spinning wheel is a more recent innovation of European origin. The adventurous Portuguese, the Dutch and the English who came in close contact with the people of the coastal areas like Fort Cochin and Anjengo are said to have introduced the spinning wheel in this industry. The manufacture of coir yarn on a commercial scale and the export of the yarn and articles of mats and mattings manufactured out of it to outside countries, might have been an aftermath of the introduction of the spinning wheel.

PROCESS OF PRODUCTION OF COIR YARN

The coir industry now consists of two types, the cottage type and the factory type. Up to the production of yarn it is essentially a

cottage industry, and thereafter it becomes a factory industry. There are different stages in the process of production of coir yarn and these processes may vary according to the quality of yarn produced.

RETTING

The first process is the retting process. For getting good fibre the green husks should be soaked under water within two or three days after the coconuts are plucked and husked. Retting itself is done differently in different places. In the Anjengo area (Trivandrum District) husks are put in big circular mallies encircled with coir nets and coconut leaves or other coverings and weights are put over them. These husks, when drenched in water, sink underneath and are kept fastened so as to remain at the places where they are soaked. The retting of husks in pits dug out in the swampy areas near the lakes and lagoons is also in vogue. For extracting good fibre these will have to be kept under water for about 6 to 9 months. In the Cochin area retting of husks in pits dug out in swampy and brackish area near lakes and fields is very common. Soaking of husks in tanks and canals is found in Shertallai and Ambalapuzha taluks.

BEATING

Soaked husks are taken out from retting pits, washed well, and beaten out with wooden mallets by human labour, mainly by women. Properly soaked and well retted husks will have to be beaten well before the pits are entirely removed. Fibre extracted from properly retted husks will have to be beaten well before the piths are entirely removed. Fibre extracted from properly retted husks is a light golden colour, clean and free from pith and other impurities.

CLEANING

Such fibres before they are spun into yarn will have to be well cleaned and processed, either by beating them with sticks or with the aid of mechanical contrivance called '*Pitcharpava*'

SPINNING

This is done mainly with the aid of spinning wheels (two wheels with spindles). In this process the spinners prepare the fibre first and afterwards these are spun into yarns. The spinning is generally attended to by women helped by girls or boys of 15 or below for rotating the wheels.

After these yarns are manufactured they are folded into hanks. According to the variety of yarns the length of hanks may vary in different places. After cleaning these hanks properly they are sorted and bundled for marketing. Among the category of coir and coir

goods, coir yarn is the most important item of export from Kerala. About 50% of the total out-put of yarn is exported abroad. The main importers of Kerala's coir yarn are Holland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Burma, Japan and East European countries.

DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF COIR

Coir is either hand spun or manufactured through the aid of spinning wheels. The yarn spun by hand is always soft and is even in twist, while those spun on wheels are usually of hard twist and not so even as hand spun. The difference in the method of production gives the basis for classifying coir yarn as 'hard twist' and 'soft twist'. The main varieties of coir now produced in Alleppy may be roughly grouped as follows:-

1 ALAPPADAN

This variety is mainly spun by hand. Spinning with the aid of spinning wheel is also found in certain places. This variety of yarn is produced in the low lying areas on the lake and beach sides of the Karunagapally Taluk (Quilon District) and in a portion of the Karthikappally taluk. The main centres of production of this variety are Alunkadavu, Cheriyaazhikal, Marutukulangara and Alappadutura.

2 ARATORY

This variety is largely produced in places situated on either side of the Kayamkulam lake and the coastal areas of the Karthikappally taluk. The main centres of production are Arattupuzha, Mahadevicad, Mangalam, Karuvatta, Chingoli, Pallana and Mutukulam. In fact this area extends from Tottappalli to Kikirad in Karthikappally taluk.

3 VAIKAM VARIETY

This is also another important variety of coir yarn produced extensively in the Taluks of Vaikam (Kottayam District), and Shertallai (Alleppey District) and in some parts of the Trichur District. According to the quality and evenness of the twist this is divided into Vaikam Special and Sada. The main centres of production of this variety are the areas in the Vaikam and Shertallai Taluks lying on either side of the Vembanad lake, Vechur, Tanuirmukkam, Chengada, Puchikal, Chempu and Kumbalangi. This is either handspun or spun by means of spinning wheels.

4 ARUR SPECIAL

This is a kind of superior variety of the Vaikam yarn produced in the Arur area situated on the northern most point of the Shertallai Taluk and Idacochin and Kumbalangi. But the quantity produced in this area is comparatively small when compared to the quantity of yarn of the other varieties. It is purely hand spun.

5 BEACH YARN

This is a very inferior variety of handspun yarn produced by people living on the beach and in the interior of the taluks of Shertallai and Amboalapuzha. The one peculiarity about the production of this yarn is that it is carried on purely as a cottage industry during off-times out of fibre extracted from husks soaked generally in ponds and tanks for a few days or at the most a month. The main centres of production of this variety are places like Muhamma, Perunirmangalam, Mararikulam and Punnaprā and Mannadcheri.

Processing of fibre with a view to clearing off piths etc., is essential in the case of manufacture of Alappadan and Vaikam Superior varieties. After such processing the fibre is spun into yarn, either sitting in a place or moving about in the yards. Such superior handspun yarns have evenness of twist. Such superior handspun yarns have evenness of twist and are mainly used for good quality mats and floor carpets. Beach yarn is also hand spun. This is a low grade product as the husks from which it is produced are not properly retted and sometimes not retted at all. It contains a large quantity of pith and is reddish brown in colour. Its tensile strength is also very low. This is manufactured purely by women in their homes as an off-time occupation. They are generally used for manufacturing low grade mattings.

GROWTH OF THE COIR MATTING INDUSTRY

The coir mat and matting industry is mainly a factory industry. Coir yarn from the producing areas is bought and properly graded for thickness, cleanness, colour and twist by the factories manufacturing mats, mattings, rugs and carpets. These factories, some of them a century old, are located chiefly in Alleppey and Shertallai. The manufacture of mats and mattings was first introduced in Alleppey town in 1859 by an American the late Mr. James Darragh, the founder of the firm of Messrs. Darragh Smail and Co., Ltd., of Alleppey, London and New York. This firm has still one of the best organised coir factories in the State. In 1963-64 the authorised capital of the company was Rs. 50 lakhs and the issued and paid-up capital Rs. 8.31 lakhs. The total number of employees was 416. The company produced 120,144 sq.m. of coir mats valued at Rs. 14,41,728. The mats and matting are exported to Australia, England, U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand, Africa, South America, etc. Apart from the Darragh Smail and Co., Ltd., there are such well-established concerns as William Goodacre & Sons Ltd., Alleppey, the Bombay Co., Ltd., Alleppey, Pierce Leslie and Co., Kalavur, Volkat Brothier Agency, Alleppey, Aspinwall & Co., Ltd., Alleppey, etc. which are also engaged

in the manufacture and sale of coir and coir goods. According to the List of Factories registered in Kerala as on December 31, 1964 there were 112 Coir factories in the District employing about 4,345 workers.

Mats and Mattings are woven on wooden looms similar to the handlooms employed for weaving cotton fabrics, but heavier. Manipulations are made by the skilled craftsmen with remarkable speed and accuracy. A curious fact dating back to the inception of mat making in this District is that every mat maker is left-handed, which may be attributed to the fact that Mr. Collins, Mr. Darragh's first factory manager, was left handed, and so this curious trait has been handed down from generation right down to the present day. The finished products of coir today, are, chiefly hall and stair runners in a variety of patterns and richness of colour and design; rugs, carpets and mourzoucks; and door mats in a large variety of quality and construction. The mattings are woven as cloth, two-treadle, three-treadle, four-treadle, multi-treadle and on looms fitted with jacquards for obtaining more intricate designs in weaving. Besides woven patterns, stencilling of designs is also extensively in use. Coir and coir goods fetch considerable foreign exchange for the country. It is estimated that they earn about 10 to 15 crores of rupees every year. However the high duties on imports of Indian Coir goods, lack of mechanisation in the coir manufacturing sector, competition from sisal floor carvings absence of fast dyes etc., have adversely affected the demand for coir goods in foreign markets and brought about a decline in the number of coir factories in recent years.

COIR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Coir industry in this District has passed through several vicissitudes in recent decades. Following the establishment of the first factory by Mss. Darragh Smail & Co., Ltd., in 1859 several European firms sprang up in Alleppey and suburbs and gave an impetus to the industrial development of the area. However, during the forties many of these firms were closed or transferred to native entrepreneurs. There was a steep fall in the export of coir goods. As a result the District passed through a phase of industrial stagnation during the period 1945-1960, causing under-employment and unemployment to many. This disquieting trend attracted the attention of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin Government and the Coir Development Scheme was inaugurated with a view to bringing all the workers in the Coir industry within the co-operative fold by eliminating the middle-men capitalists who knocked off the lions' share of the profits of the industry,

The Central Government also set up the Coir Board under the provisions of the Coir Industry Act 1953 in order to help the industry grow on healthy lines. A Coir Research Institute has also been established at Kalavur in this District. (1959). The primary function of the Institute is to aid development of the Coir Industry on scientific lines. Research covering various aspects of the Coir Industry including development of improved methods for extraction of coir and the subsequent processing of the fibre and yarn, standardisation of the different types of materials with a view to ensuring quality control, improvement of the quality of dyeing, finding newer fields for potential use of the material and utilisation of the waste materials like coir waste and coconut pith are problems which are engaging the attention of the Institute.

An Inspector of Quality control functions with his Office in Alleppey town to fix up the standards of quality of the coir goods manufactured for export. As a result of the steps so taken by Government there was a steady increase in the production and export of coir goods. The largest buyers of coir goods are United Kingdom, the United States of America and certain other European countries. At present it is estimated that about 3 to 4 lakhs of people are directly or indirectly engaged in the Coir industry in this District. According to the Census of 1961, 99,593 persons in this District are engaged in coir industry as their main occupation. The total capital investment is roughly estimated at Rs. 4 crores.

The working of the Coir Development Scheme may be briefly alluded to here. The Alleppey District is divided into six Inspectorate Circles, viz., (1) Alleppey, (2) Puchakkal, (3) Turavur, (4) Shertallai, (5) Karthikapally, and (6) Kayamkulam. There are about 70 private small scale units engaged in the Coir Industry in Kayamkulam Circle, 500 in Shertallai Circle, 160 in Turavur Circle and 800 in Alleppey. In the other area also, there are several small scale industrial units owned, managed and supervised by private dealers. More than 60% of the actual coir workers have now been brought within the co-operative fold under the Coir Development Scheme. The Circle-wise number of Co-operative Societies in the District in 1964-65 was as follows :-

Turavur	13
Puchakkal	11
Shertallai	16
Karthikapalli	15
Kayamkulam	28
Alleppey	16

The Central Coir Marketing Co-operative Society, Alleppey, pools the coir produced by primary societies working in this District and sells it to factory-owners on commission basis or exports it direct. Mats and Matting Societies manufacture exporting items of coir goods. There are 3 Mats and Mattings Societies in the District viz. (1) Shertallai Coir Mats and Mattings Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 240, (2) Alleppey Coir Mats and Mattings Co-operative Society, Ltd., No. 241, and (3) Kerala Coir Mats and Mattings Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 346. The co-operative movement has benefited the Coir industry to a great extent. The Co-operative Societies make the raw material available to producers at reasonable prices and thus check the abnormal fluctuations in the husk market. The intermediaries are also eliminated to a great extent. Husk Retting Unions are organised at places where the Primary Societies function.

Several other effective measures have been taken by the Government to protect the industry from ruin. During seasons of slump in marketing the "Coir Purchase Scheme" was introduced with a view to helping the producers to find better prices for their products. The direct production of coir by societies was also experimented. Financial help under the Small Scale Industries Aid Scheme is extended to individual industrialists engaged in the industry. Mechanisation at certain stages of the industry is also under the earnest consideration of the Government. Establishment of Show Rooms in and outside the State to popularise the products is being done by the Coir Board. Foreign orders are being canvassed through Embassies and Trade Commissions. Minimum wages in the different stages of the industry have been fixed by the Government. There is also exemption for coir goods from Sales Tax. To maintain a standard of quality and a steady market the quality of the goods manufactured is being looked into by the Coir Board. Moreover, Government servants are appointed as Paid Secretaries to look after the affairs of the Coir Co-operatives. The expenditure for the implementation of the Coir Development Scheme is met by the State and Central Government on a fifty-fifty basis. The working of the Scheme has gone a long way in alleviating the distress of the Coir workers and in raising their standard of living.

THE COIR TRAINING AND DESIGN CENTRE, ALLEPPEY

Reference may be made in this connection to the Coir Training and Design Centre set up by the Coir Board at Alleppey in October 1965 with a view to providing instruction in advanced manufacture processes to those already employed in the coir industry as well as to prospective newcomers. The course of training covers various stages

of production like weaving, dyeing, designing etc. The Centre is also expected to conduct refresher courses for senior executives employed in the coir industry and organise studies and researches aimed at evolving new and better designs.

The training Centre functions in the precincts of the Kerala Mats and matting Co-operative Society Ltd. at Alleppey. The intake of the Centre is limited to 12 students chosen from among those employed in the coir industry and possessing some knowledge of its functioning. The Centre has been provided with adequate facilities for training. A number of spindles have been installed, including those of the Jacquard variety. The centre houses nets, weaving machines, stencilling machines, etc. The syllabus has been so drawn up that by the end of the ten-month course the Centre will be able to turn out students equipped with a fairly good knowledge in the various processes involved in the manufacture of coir and coir products. Besides theoretic and practical training at the centre, the trainees are also provided with the necessary facilities to acquire practical knowledge by on-the-spot studies in important units of the coir industry located in Alleppey. Each trainee is given Rs. 75 per month as stipend.

OIL MILLS

Alleppey is the chief centre of the coconut oil industry. There are 94 registered Oil Mills in the District employing about 738 workers. The extraction of the coconut oil is one of the early industries of the State. Coconut oil is used largely for culinary toilet purposes and in the manufacture of soap and candles. The quality of the oil depends on the quality of the copra used and hence great care is bestowed on the preparation of copra for the milling. Copra is prepared by drying the kernel. This is done either by exposing it to the sun or by smoking it or by blowing hot air over it. Sundrying is the usual practice as it produces the best oil. Copra is sorted into two kinds, the white and the dark. Copra ordinarily contains 60 to 65 percent of oil.

There are three processes by which oil can be extracted from copra. They are the cold dry process, the hot wet process, and the solvent process. The first is generally followed to the exclusion of the other two. This gives oil of the finest quality, though the yield is poor. This defect is neutralised by the fact that the oil produced by the adoption of this method keeps longer without becoming rancid and the oil cake (punnac) left over fetches a good price as cattle food by virtue of its oil content and agreeable flavour.

The ordinary, country Ghani and the Rotary Ghani are used for the extraction of coconut oil. The Country ghani (chakku) consists of a granite mortar and a pestle of hard wood. Cattle power negotiates these through a horizontal beam. This process of extraction is slow and tedious. The Rotary Ghani is driven by steam power. This is cheaper and at the same time more efficient. There are three grades of coconut oil, viz, (1) Office White, (2) Bazaar White and (3) Dark (or sediment). "Office White Oil" is semi-transparent and possesses peculiar nutty flavour. It is obtained from the best varieties of copra. usually the white "Bazaar White Oil" is obtained from the dark brown copra. The colour of the copra is due to the treatment it receives during the process of splitting and drying. The Dark Oil is recovered from the sediment which is found in the casks after the clear oil has been drawn off.

Once a most flourishing industry of the District, oil milling by means of rotary chucks has in recent years been languishing for various economic reasons; One of the reasons is the large scale export of copra from Kerala and the increasing reliance on imported copra from Ceylon. The export of copra from the State to Bombay and other parts of India is more advantageous than disposing it in the local markets for a variety of reasons, chief among which are:- (1) Copra can be transported in gunny bags while the finished oil can be transported to the same destinations only in costly drums and containers, (2) There is hardly any risk like leakage and damage to containers, if copra were transported directly rather than oil and (3) The crushing charges are much lower at Bombay where the major portion of the capacity exists in the form of the more efficient deterioration in the raw material position of the oil crushing industry. The oil millers of the Districts have not been able to procure from the local market on an aggregate more than one-third of the raw materials required for crushing at their full installed capacities.

Speculative trading in coconut oil has also some extent hampered the progress of the oil crushing industry. The industry has at various times suffered more from the pressures which it has generated from within itself than from those which are purely adventitious. Fortunately the Government of India enacted proper legislation through the Forward Contracts (Regulation) act 1952 (LXXIV of 1952) which seeks to protect the industry and the trade from the insidious effects of forward trading as divested of actual physical movement of commodities.

The productivity of the present units has to a considerable extent been adversely affected by the partial or complete power cuts which are effected during certain seasons of the year by the Government. Apart from reducing the output, they tend to reduce the efficiency of the installations on the one hand and to create labour unrest on the other. Until the completion of the Hydro-Electric Projects now in hand this state of affairs is likely to continue.

Above all, with the mounting prices of copra in a buyers' market and the lower productivity of the rotary chucks the oil crushing charges in the State are on high side. Coupled with this is the natural disability of the mills to procure copra for about 3 to 4 months in the year. In many cases, the crushing periods vary from as low as 150 to 200 days. Though there are at least a few oil mills which work all the year round and there are still others which seem to do flourishing business even during 'slack' seasons, the oil mills are 'seasonal' in a restricted sense as the average number of crushing days in the year is only about 225 or roughly 75 per cent of the number of working days in the year.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

Handloom weaving in Alleppey, as elsewhere in the State, is the traditional occupation of a certain caste called the Chahyas. The Minimum Wage Committee for Employment in the Handloom Industry (1960) estimated that there were 5,86 looms in this District. The industry was covered mainly by the unorganised private sector consisting of master weavers and independent weavers. In recent times it has, however, been organised on co-operative lines. The Handloom Co-operative Societies aim at two things viz, improvement in the economic condition of the weaver members and production of handloom fabrics of superior quality. They are given aid by Government (i) to purchase raw materials and appliances (ii) to market finished goods through central societies and (iii) to keep the quality of the goods manufactured.

The Central Government have set apart substantial funds for the development of the handloom industry. The All India Handloom Board set up in 1952 encourages the formation and development of Weavers Co-operatives. In 1961-65 there were 17 Handloom Co-operative Societies in the District. It is estimated that more than 1,800 persons are engaged in the industry in the Co-operative sector. A Taluk-wise statement of the number of Societies, membership and amount of share capital is given below:-

STATEMENT OF HANDLOOM CO-OPERATIVES

Taluk	Number of Societies	Number of Members	Share capital Rs.
Total	17	1,837	41,904.25
1 Karthikapally	2	190	3,567.25
2 Ambalapuzha	1	49	1,065.00
3 Shertalai	4	411	14,172.00
4 Mavelikara	5	750	5,403.00
5 Chengannur	2	137	6,218.00
6 Tiruvalla	3	280	9,479.00

The handloom industry is being run almost as a cottage industry. All the members of the weaver households engage themselves in one or other of the activities involved in the manufacturing process, viz., carding, spinning, winding, warping, weaving, etc. The average daily wages in this industry are Rs. 3 for men, Rs. 2 for women and Re. 1 for children. The cost of the looms comes within the resources of the ordinary worker, i.e., between Rs. 100 and Rs. 500. The primary societies fix the price of the finished goods at a profit of 10% of the cost of production. The Kerala State Handloom Weavers' Society functions as the apex society and central society of all primary societies. The apex society purchases the finished goods of the member societies at 5% profit over and above the cost of production. The primary societies in Alleppey District have no separate sales-depots, other than those attached to the societies. The apex society is the only sale agency outside the State. The handloom industry faces keen competition from private dealers.

Government have launched schemes for the uplift of weavers and for the improvement of handloom fabrics. Share capital loan, working capital loan, grant for the purchase of tools, technical assistance etc., are given. Rebate grant at 0.05 rupee on sale of handloom fabrics for Rs. 2 and above but below Rs. 50 is given. Special rebates during festival periods are also sanctioned. Assistance by way of cash credit accommodation in the District Co-operative Bank has also been provided for handloom societies. Government finance is routed through Co-operative Banks. This accommodation is beneficial to the handloom societies. Interest charged on such accommodation is nominal.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The Cotton Textile Industry has sprung up in the District recently. There are two important textile concerns which are in the offing, viz., the Kerala Spinners Ltd., Alleppey and Prabhuram Mills, Pantalam. The available particulars about both these concerns are given below-

ALLEPPEY SPINNERS LTD.: ALLEPPEY

This Company has been formed by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation with an authorised capital of Rs. 1 crore for implementing the licence held by it in association with a Managing Agency from Bombay. The Mill which would have a capacity of 12,000 spindles is to be located at Komalapuram, three miles north of Alleppey. The land required for setting up the factory is being acquired and steps are being taken for the construction of the factory building. The total cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 70 lakhs.

PRABHURAM MILLS, PANTALAM

A licence was issued to M/s. Prabhuram Mills (P) Ltd., Chengannur for setting up a spinning Mill at Chengannur with a complement of 25,000 spindles. The party has purchased the required land and factory construction has started. As seen from the Company's report, they have ordered for the machinery to be imported from Japan and have obtained the required licence from Government of India.

SUGAR INDUSTRY

The sugar industry has assumed considerable importance in the District in recent years. Out of 22,000 acres under sugarcane in Kerala State, 12,000 acres are in Alleppey District. Apart from the sugarcane juice which is converted into a crude gur or jaggery there are two factories in this District which produce white crystalline sugar. They are the Travancore Sugars & Chemicals, Tiruvalla and Mannom Sugar Mills, Pantalam.

THE TRAVANCORE SUGARS & CHEMICALS, TIRUVALLA

The Travancore Sugars & Chemicals, Ltd., Tiruvalla, otherwise called the Pampa River Factory, is situated on the banks of the river Pampa at pulikessh. It is a Private Limited Company. Its administration is vested in a Board of Directors and Messrs.

Parry & Co., are the Managing Agents. In January 1964 the Company has an authorised share capital of Rs. 60,00,000 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 45,00,000. The factory produces sugar from locally available sugarcane. Its intake of raw sugarcane is 1.25 lakhs tons. Apart from sugar the factory also produces rectified spirit, Denatured and Methylated spirit, Arrack, Foreign Type Liquors and Pharmaceuticals as by-products. There are more than 900 workers employed in the factory and the annual bill by way of salaries, wages and other staff benefits comes to about 1½ lakhs of rupees.

THE MANNOM SUGAR MILLS CO-OPERATIVE LTD., PANTALAM-

The Mannom Sugar Mills sponsored by the Nair Service Society is located in a 140 acre plot, about 2½ miles south east of the Pantalam junction from the M.C. Road. Its authorised capital is Rs. 60 lakhs of which the Government of Kerala has provided Rs 90 lakhs by way of share capital. The Company has got Rs. 90 lakhs from the Industrial Finance Corporation, Rs. 40 lakhs from the State Bank of Travancore, and Rs. 20 lakhs from Life Insurance Corporation as loan. The mill started production in January 1964. It is housed in a building 350' in length and 72' in breadth. It has its own Turbo Alternator for generating 1,350 K.W. of electric power and a well equipped workshop. Sugarcane for the mill is purchased locally and the production of sugar is pooled by the Government of India. The crushing capacity is 1,000 tons of sugarcane per day. Its requirements of sugarcane are met from about 3,500 acres of land cultivated in the surrounding areas with technical help from the company's Cane Department. When the plant starts working in the full capacity, it would require sugarcane from about 10,000 acres. The Mannom Sugar Mills provides employment to about 1,000 persons.

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

The District has an important place in the Motion Picture Industry in the State. The Udaya Studio, one of the pioneering concerns engaged in the production of Malayalam movies, is located at Udaya Nagar, about 3 miles north of Alleppey town on the N.H. 47. The Studio was started in 1947 with a capital investment of Rs. 15 lakhs. It received technical help from a German expert in the matter of its design and lay-out. The Studio has its own laboratory, pre-view theatre, cottages for actors and actresses, beautiful gardens, etc. and it has about 500 workers on its rolls. The Udaya Studio has since its inception provided a forum for the

best actors and actresses in Malayalam and some of its productions have been box office hits, e. g., *Umma*, *Jeevitha Nauka*, *Unniarcha* and *Bharya*. Till 1964 it had brought 26 Malayalam movies, the earliest one being *Velli Nakshatram*.

SOUTH INDIA RUBBER WORKS, ALLEPPEY

The factory which is located in the Beach Ward Alleppey started production in 1918. Its management is vested in the partners of the concerns, viz., Messrs. K. A. H. Vohra, K. A. R. Vohra & K. A. Hameed Vohra. The capital invested comes to about Rs. 10 lakhs. The factory employs about 200 workers and has 42 members on its staff. It pays about Rs. 115,000 as wages every year. The company gets raw rubber from Kottayam and China Clay from Papinisseri while the various chemicals are imported from abroad on import licenses granted by the Government of India. It manufactures hose pipes of all descriptions, solid rubber sheets, sponge rubber sheets, Vac. Broak Fittings for Railways and the World Famous 'Foamthread' Shoes which it started in technical collaboration with an American concern. All the products are marketed throughout India and are supplied also to Government and semi-Government Departments including Railways etc,

PALLATHRA BRICKS AND TILES LIMITED, ALLEPPEY

This factory, located in Pallipuram village Shertallai Taluk, started production in July 1963. It is a Government Company registered under Section 617 of the Companies Act (1956). The paid-up capital of the Company is Rs. 10,96,640. The average labour force employed is 30 men while the clerical and technical staff number 13. The wages and other benefits paid for the year 1962-63 amounted to Rs. 33,801.

The factory manufactures Sand Lime Bricks. The principal raw materials required by the industry are white quartz sand and lime which are locally available in plenty. Other raw materials are Furnace Oil and Coal which are obtained without much difficulty from dealers. The significant features of the manufacturing process are as follows. Sand and lime are mixed in a given proportion and sent to the high capacity Rotary Table Press by means of belt conveyor. After being pressed into shape and with the required consistency the pressed bricks are stacked on hardening cars and then sent to a hardening chamber where steam is passed in at high pressure for about 6 hours at the end of which the hardened

bricks are taken out and are ready for use. The Sand-lime Brick is a new building material of high standard. These bricks are manufactured in two sizes, viz., $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{4}" \times 2\frac{3}{4}"$ and $7\frac{1}{2}" \times 3\frac{5}{8}" \times 2\frac{3}{4}"$. Though the Company started production in July 1963, it worked only for 53 days during 1963-64 owing to power cut and other bottlenecks. The total production of bricks during these days came to nearly 9 lakhs, their total value being Rs. 66,021.01. The bricks are marketed both inside and outside the District. Building material is difficult to obtain in the coastal regions of Alleppey and the commencement of the production of sand-lime brick in the District, the only one of its kind in India, should be a great help to the local public. Unfortunately, consumer resistance, as in the case of any new product, persists and the sales figures of the company have not been very encouraging. However, the buying public is slowly getting interested and the product is expected to have a better market in the years to come.

CASHEW INDUSTRY

The Cashew Industry flourishes in those areas lying contiguous to the Quilon District. There are 6 cashew factories providing employment to about 4,750 workers. Kayamkulam is the most important centre of the cashew industry in this district, the major concerns here being the Hindustan Cashew Products (Private) Ltd., the Mudaliar Industries Ltd. and the Jupiter Cashew Company.¹

OTHER SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY

A number of miscellaneous small scale industries have been set up in different parts of the District. According to a report furnished by the District Industries Officer, Alleppey, in July 1965 there are 47 Engineering units, 20 Chemical industries, 20 Metal industries 4 Steel Furniture Manufacturing units, 3 units engaged in the manufacture of Buckets and taps, 7 Match factories and 26 other small units engaged in such activities as manufacture of Confectionery, Straw Board, Fire Works, etc. The work of the Kerala State Small Industries Corporation and the Rural Industries Project in the District assumes special significance in this context. Several small Industrial units function under the auspices of the both these agencies. The details are furnished below:

[¹ For details of the Cashew Industry see Quilon District Gazetteer, Chapter V,

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

There is an Industrial Estate at Kollakadavu which is being managed by the Kerala State small Industries Corporation from July 1962. There are 4 'A' type sheds, 6 'B' type sheds and 32 'C' type sheds in this Estate. The following are the present occupants.

Sl. No.	Name of occupation	Sheds	
		No.	Type
1	Kollakadavu Match Factory	1	A
2	Ambika Match Factory	1	A
3	C. D. Block Industrial Co-operative Society	1	C
4	United Oil Mills	2	C
5	Ladies Industrial Co-operative Society	1	C
6	Popular Chemicals	1	C
7	K. I. V. Metal & Allied Industries	2	B
8	Kerala Steel Corporation	2	C
9	Hindustan Import & Export Corporation	4	C
10	Southern Castings	2	C
11	Chandra Metal Company	1	B
12	Bicycle Valves	1	C
13	Nathaniel Dwarakadas	1	B
14	Travancore Rubber Works	2	C
15	Asian Engineering & Metal Works	2	C
16	K. I. V. Sons	1	C
17	P. W. D.	3	C
18	Ideal Wood Crafts	2	C
19	Keigis Industries	1	C

A second Industrial Estate has been sanctioned for Alleppey District and it is being set up at Shertallai. The Corporation has also taken over the Straw Board Factory, Parumala from the Industries Department from June 1 1963. This is a seasonal factory. Certain construction works are being undertaken here, but much difficulty is being experienced by the Corporation for getting the required raw material i.e., bagasse.

RURAL INDUSTRIES PROJECT, ALLEPPEY

The Rural Industries Project, Alleppey one of the projects of the Kind in Kerala, covers an area of 184 sq. miles and a population

of about 5 lakhs comprised in the five N.E.S. Blocks Pattanakad, Kanjikuzhi, Arud, Ambalapuzha and Veliyanad. The project has taken up several schemes with a view to promoting the industrial development of the area. One of the most important schemes is the Training Programme under which training facilities are to be provided to the educated unemployed and to the village artisans of the area. A Technical Training Centre is to be set up at Turavur to train 16 young men of the area in each of the following engineering trades: 1) Turner, 2) Machinist, 3) Fitter and 4) Instrument mechanic. A Coconut Pith Articles Training Centre is proposed to be set up at Kannankari in order to train 15 persons each year in the manufacture of coconut pith and fibre articles. Under scheme for Occupational Training drawn up as part of the Training Programme village artisans are selected from existing small units and Co-operative Societies in the Project area and sent to industrial institutions for training in better techniques of production and handling of machines. Moreover, Common Facility Service Centres are proposed to be established under the Project in the localities where there are concentrations of traditional village artisans. Thus Common Facility Service centres are to be set up for carpenters at Arur, for Blacksmith at Eranallur and for Potters at Mitrakari. Each centre will provide the main tools and equipments and popularise their use by giving the necessary training to artisans. Among the commercial schemes sponsored by the Project are two Straw-Board Factories which are to be set up at Kottapalli in Ambalapuzha Block and Kannankari in Veliyanad village at an estimate of Rs. 2 lakhs each. A Chemical Industrial Estate has been set up at Arur under the auspices of the project. The following factories have been set up in this estate and handed over to the approved enterpreneurs on hire purchase basis.

Name of Unit	Expected	Employment
	Investment Rs.	Potential No.
1 Chloroform	3,85,000	28
2 Sodium silicate	2,38,900	53
3 Fine Chemicals (sodium salicylate, Potassium citrate, etc.)	2,10,000	30
4 Cattle feed	1,20,100	16
5 Pure chemicals (Calcium chloride, Table Salt)	1,87,600	30

6	Tinctures, syrup, Chemicals	1,43,300	6
7	Engineering unit for structural steel fabrication	2,00,000	24
8	Fabrication of chemical plants	1,27,300	20

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRODUCTION CENTRE, TIRUVALLA

It may be relevant in this context to refer to the working of the Government of India Production Centre for Electric Motors functioning at Tiruvalla. A Pilot Project was taken up in 1956 by the Central Government with a view to creating employment potential to absorb the educated unemployed at select centres in Kerala. Tiruvalla, where the percentage of educated unemployed is very high, was chosen as the site of the unit for production of Electric Motors. The foundation of this Centre was laid on 21st September 1956 over a 9.55 acre plot acquired by the State Government at a cost of over Rs. 66,000. A factory shed having a floor area of 5,400 sq. ft. with office building accommodation of 800 sq. ft. was built by C. P. W. D. at a cost of Rs. 1.25 lakhs and was handed over to this Centre in 1958. Additional temporary sheds covering 4,800 sq. ft. were later added to the original to meet the growing requirements of additional space.

The production of 29 different types of electric motors ranging from 1 to 12.5 HP has so far been taken up in this Centre. All the products excepting a few waiting for clearance from the Indian Standards Institution as to their suitability, are sold with the ISI marking. The design centre attached, though small, is in touch with modern development trends and incorporates better design features to increase efficiency of the motors and to reduce the cost and use of scarce raw materials. The designs are made available to the small scale entrepreneurs at a nominal charge, viz., the cost of blue printing the drawings from negatives. This is done with a view to helping small scale units to come up without much trouble and initial expenditure.

Training facilities are also extended at the centre to the nominees of small scale units for advanced training in better techniques so that on return they may be helpful to their employers in introducing new methods and equipments for the betterment of their products and slashing down the time, material and cost factors. The trainees get a stipend of Rs. 40/- each per month to meet the out-of-pocket expenses. The courses are for 6 months each in Fitting, Turning, Machine shop practice, Electrical shop practice

and Blacksmithy and 3 months each in Electric & Gas Welding and Die-casting. There is provision for entertaining 40 trainees at a time and every three months 20 new trainees are inducted. Six more trainees under the National Apprenticeship Scheme also are imparted training for six months each and are awarded a stipend of Rs. 60/-per month.

Some 70 employees, more than 90 of whom are educated, are working in this Centre as Workmen or members of the staff. A sum of over Rs. 15,000 is disbursed every month as pay and wages among them besides about Rs. 2,000 paid to the 46 trainees as stipend. Another Rs. 500 approximately is paid to the casual and contract labourers.

A statistical review of the activities of this unit for the past three years is tabulated below:-

Activities	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Production of motors	No. 459	848	1,142
	Value Rs. 1.65 lakhs	Rs. 3.25 lakhs	Rs. 4.30 lakhs
Service work	No. 111	88	55
	Value Rs. 11,922.35	Rs. 10,344.82	Rs. 6,221.92
Advice	No. 10	24	21
Training (To date)	Artisans 450		
	Apprentices 39		

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

Khadi and Village Industries came to be started in the organised sector since 1956—57. Besides Khadi, village industries such as Handpounding of paddy, Hand Made Paper, Non-edible oil and Soap, Village Oil, Gur khandasari, Village Pottery and Fibre are being financed by the Khadi and Village Industries Board in this District. The Khadi industry has been organised on co-operative lines in select centres in all Taluks. The main centres are Arur, Sertallai and Mararikulam in Sertallai Taluk, Kalavur and Parakkad in Ambalapuzha Taluk, Vozhappra and Talavadi in Kuttanad Taluk, Haripad and Mutukulam in Kartikapally Taluk, Tattarambalam and Pampamon in Mavelikara Taluk, Mannar in Chengannur Taluk and Mallapalli in Tiruvalla Taluk. There are 56 Co-operative Societies in this District engaged in one or other of the village industries referred to above and they are spread over

all the seven Taluks. The following statement furnishes a rough estimate of the number of persons employed in each of the industries in 1964-65-

Employment in Khadi and Village Industries 1964-65

	No. of persons
Total	3,897
Khadi	1,786
Hand Made Paper	35
Handpounding of Paddy	659
Village Oil	850
Gurkhandsari	200
Fibre	100
Pottery	240
Non-Edible Oil & Soap	86

The raw materials required for most of these industries are locally available and purchases are made from the open market. The institutions are given stocking loans for procuring adequate raw materials like paddy for the handpounding industry, and oil seeds such as coconut, gingelly, cashew, castor, marol, etc., for oil and non-edible oil and soap industries. As far as Khadi is concerned, different kinds of cotton are imported from outside the State. The goods are produced mainly to meet the local demands. Marketing of the finished products is done through the depots and agencies organised by the Khadi Board. There is not much difficulty in marketing the goods as there is market for them in the District as well as outside.

The average daily wages paid to the labourers in the various industries are given below.

WAGE SCHEDULE IN KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

Industry	Wages		
	Men	Women	Children
Khadi	4.00	2.00	1.00
Hand Made Paper	3.50	2.00	1.00
Handpounding of Paddy	..	2.00	1.00
Village Oil	8.00	2.00	1.00
Gurkhandsari	3.50	2.00	1.00
Fibre	..	1.00	..
Pottery	3.00	2.00	1.00
Non-edible Oil & Soap	3.00	1.00	..

HANDICRAFTS

The Alleppey District is famous for some of the typical handicrafts of Kerala. The most important of these are Bell-metal, Casting, Embroidery and Lace Making, Cone and Rattan Work, Bamboo Reed Weaving, Screwpine Mat Weaving, Handcrinting, Musical Instruments Manufacture, Kathakali Accessories Making, Granite Carving and Aranmula Metal Mirror manufacture. Brief notes on each of these handicrafts are given below.

BELL-METAL CASTING

Bell-metal casting is an ancient industrial art of Kerala. It is concerned mainly with two kinds of activities. One is the art of making images out of copper, brass and bronze for temples and religious purposes and the other is the art of making huge *varanus* (shallow basins of hemispherical shape) multi-storied lamps, etc., for temple purposes and household utensils. The products of this industry show a high degree of technical perfection. The workers make several crafts of alloy according to the proportions of copper and zinc or copper and tin used. The alloy of copper and zinc is locally known as *Pichala* or brass and the alloy of copper and tin is known as *Vellodu* or bronze. Both brass and bronze casting are carried on by the artisans of this District. The most important centre of the bell-metal industry is Mannar. The industry is almost completely in the private sector. According to the *Report on census of Handicrafts* (1960) there are 45 units engaged in the bell-metal industry in this District. There is very little unemployment among the bell-metal workers as they get work throughout the year. Bell-metal articles are mostly marketed through middle men while a few units produce for the customers direct. Most of the units undertake the production against specific orders placed with them. The bell-metal workers are hereditary craftsmen (Musaris) and they carry on the work in their homes. Out of 15 units in this District only one is a Co-operative Society and all the rest are proprietary concerns. The total number of persons employed in the bell-metal industry in Alleppey is estimated as 192, and the total value of the output per year comes to about Rs. 10 lakhs.

The bell-metal industry has suffered decline in recent times as a result of various factors. The advent of electric lights has brought about the collapse of the bronze lamps except for ceremonial purposes. Similarly the increasing popularity of aluminium, ceramic

and stainless steel utensils has eliminated copper and bronze vessels from the field. Though bell-metal articles are durable they are at the same time more costly and less fashionable than their rivals in the market. Consequently the bell-metal industry has been facing keen competition. If the industry is to have a bright future, it has to be reorientated to suit the requirements and aptitudes of the modern age.

EMBROIDERY AND LACE MAKING

Lace and embroidery work is also carried on in this District particularly under the auspices of the Christian Converts and Mahila Samajams. The present form of embroidery was introduced by the Christian Missionaries and the women-folk took to it with great enthusiasm. The main centre of this handicraft in this District is Tiruvalla. The business activity of embroidery and lace making units is generally slack when compared to other craft establishments as the demand for the products is dull. The units in this industry generally produce against orders. The total number of persons employed in the lace and embroidery industry in the District is 173 and the total value of the annual produce comes to about Rs. 8,125 only.

CANE AND RATTAN WORK

Manufacture of cane and rattan articles is undertaken by 58 establishments in Alleppey District. The majority of them produce chairs, teapoys, waste paper baskets and other minor items while some produce setties, easy-chairs, basket-chairs, trays, cradles, shopping bags, etc. Alleppey District has the largest number of units engaged in this industry in Kerala State, more than one-third of the total number being located here. The main centres of the industry are Chengannur and Tiruvalla. The majority of the units produce their goods only against specific orders and sell them through middlemen. Cane and rattan weaving is a process done purely by hand with the help of certain elementary tools. The industry is almost completely in the private sector, though there is almost one Co-operative Society in the District. The total number of labourers engaged in the industry come to about 200 and the value of the annual production is estimated at Rs. 1, 13, 295.

BAMBOO REED WEAVING

Bamboo Reed weaving is also one of the important cottage industries of the District. There are about 36 units in this field and

they produce such articles as mats, baskets, etc., for household purposes in addition to some fancy articles. The fancy articles of bamboo have less market than the utility items. A major establishment at Alleppey is, however, reported to be exporting artistic items of bamboo and reed. Almost all the establishments in this field are proprietary concerns. The total number of persons employed in the industry would come to 157 and the value of the annual output Rs 31,505.

SCREW-PINE MAT MAKING

Screw-pine mat making is an important handicraft that thrives in the Mavelikara and Kartikapally Taluks of this District. Next to Quilon, Alleppey with its 61 units has the largest number of screw-pine mat making units in the State. Both coarse and fine mats are woven in the cottages of the families engaged in this craft. Though the industry is carried on mainly in cottage establishments there is one unit in Kartikapally Taluk which has constructed work sheds spending about Rs. 1,200. The majority of the units sell their goods through middle men. The total number of labourers engaged in this handicraft come to 226 and the total value of output to Rs. 1,36,150.

HAND PRINTING

Hand printing of textiles is undertaken in four establishments in this District. The industry does not exist as a family occupation. It is carried on mainly by hired labour. The printed fabrics are sold through middle men. Due to lack of sufficient marketing facilities and resources to keep on printing goods for the open market, the units restrict their activities to the execution of specific orders placed by cloth merchants. The hand printing industry provides employment to only about 17 persons in this District and the total value of the output comes to Rs. 35,800. It may also be mentioned that there is also a Co-operative Society in Alleppey which has been giving training to students in printing.

MANUFACTURE OF KATHAKALI ACCESSORIES

The Alleppey District is particularly noted for another typical handicraft—the manufacture of Kathakali accessories and costumes. There are 5 establishments—two in Ambalapuzha Taluk and one each in Mavelikara, Shertallai and Tiruvalla Taluks. The establishments in Ambalapuzha and Shertalli are workshop establishments and the others of the cottage type. The establishment in Shertallai is run

by a managing committee of 13 members and the others are proprietary concerns. The establishment in Tiruvalla has more or less perennial activity. The value of Kathakalli accessories produced in Alleppey is estimated at Rs. 8,700. The craftsmen do not get work throughout the year and they take to the craft only as a subsidiary occupation. While engaged in active work a costume maker may get about Rs. 5 a day.

GRANITE CARVING

Granite carving has existed in Kerala from very ancient days as part of temple architecture. Chengannur in this District is an important centre of this industry. Idols, house-hold requisites, articles required for building purposes, road rollers, pillars, survey stones etc. are produced here. The raw material required by the Granite workers of Chengannur is obtained from the rocks in nearby Tittamel. The place is in the vicinity of Pandavanpara. The craftsmen are *Kallasaris* whose ancestors are believed to have been brought from the Tamil country for the construction of the local Mahadevar temple. There is a Stone Workers Co-operative Society at Chengannur which undertakes carving throughout the year. It engages 13 hired labourers. The total value of the articles produced is Rs. 17,800. The number of proficient craftsmen engaged in granite work has been on the decrease in recent years. A Training centre has been set up at Chengannur under the Directorate of Industries and Commerce to revive the dying art. It imparts training in granite carving to students belonging to the traditional Kallasaricaste each of whom is paid a stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MANUFACTURE

The manufacture of Kerala's traditional musical instruments is carried on by four establishments in the District. All the three common types of musical instruments, viz., Percussion, Wind and String instruments are manufactured in the District.¹ Most of the

1 The musical instruments used in Kerala are classified into 3 varieties. The first is percussion type which includes "*Mridangam*", "*Gajjali*", "*Dolak*", "*Udukku*", "*Chenda*" (drum), "*Timila*" "*Idakka*", "*Takil*" and a few others. Instruments like '*Nagaswara*', *Sruti*, *Pambu*, *-nagaswara* *Mukha-Veena* and *Kombu* are called wind-instruments. The chief stringed instruments are *Veena*, *Tamburu*, *Sarangi* and *Swarabi* and *Violin*. The instruments *Chenda*, *Uduyka*, *Timila* and *Idakka* are the traditional musical instruments of Kerala.

establishments make instruments for the open market. The number of workers employed in the craft is only 15 and the annual income of the output comes to Rs. 12,715.

ARANMULA METAL MIRROR MAKING

The Aranmula Metal Mirror or *Kannadi* has a unique place among the handicrafts of Kerala. The mirror is a rare curio which any tourist to the District would love to possess, whatever be its price. It takes its name from the village of Aranmula in Chengannur Taluk, and was in vogue long before the appearance of the present glass mirror. An 18 century Mural in the Radmanabhaswami Temple, Trivandrum shows a semi-celestial lady performing her toilet with the aid of an Aranmula mirror. The Aranmula mirror is made of an alloy of copper and tin (10:51). It is oval in shape 6" x 4" in size and about 1/5" thick. It has got a small tail-line handle by which it can be held. The metal mirror resembles the glass mirror in every respect and any object placed against it is reflected fully and clearly. The artisans belong to the Tamil Kammala caste and it is believed that their ancestors came from the Tamil country. Local tradition associates the origin of the mirror with the temple at Aranmula. The *Selected Crafts of Kerala* (Census of India 1961-Vol. VII) gives the following account of the origin of the Aranmula Kannadi. The tradition about the origin of this mirror goes that about 400 years ago the Chief of the Maazhath Committee of the Aranmula temple, himself a patron of the arts and crafts, brought in a few families of Kannans whose profession was bronze casting and settled them in his territory, granting them lands and privileges with a view to getting their services for the production of bell-metal utensils. It so happened that these Kannans failed several times in their casting of the articles whereupon the Chief threatened to withdraw the privileges granted to them and evict them from his territory. The Kannans became frightened and offered prayers to the deity to protect them from this calamity and render their work successful. All the female folk offered to sacrifice their ornaments to make a crown for the deity. The smiths who attempted to make the crown prepared the usual alloy of copper and tin and the women threw into the crucible all their ornaments which were made of pure tin. The produce was marvellous, resembling silver in colour and when polished, it acquired the quality of mirror-like reflection. The crown was presented to the deity and the deity is even now known as the Kannadi Bimbam (idol of mirror). The quality of the reflection which was

noticed as resulting from the use of this new alloy was pursued by the smiths who succeeded in continuing to make mirrors out of it. The Chief who was pleased with the performance of the smiths encouraged them by insisting on the inclusion of a metal mirror as a part of *Ashtamangalyam* (the eight auspicious articles used in religious ceremonies). It created a great demand for these metal mirrors and thereby facilitated the growth of the industry in that village." Whatever be the truth behind this tradition, it seems certain that this craft might have developed as a result of an accident in metal casting. Handed down from father to son in successive generations it has been the hereditary craft of two families in Aranmula.

The secrets of the craft as well as the proportion of the metals were kept by them as closely guarded secrets. The production of this mirror has, however, recently been undertaken successfully by the School of Arts, Trivandrum. A Training Centre has also been set up at Aranmula by the Department of Industries and Commerce under the Third Five year plan in order to impart training to select students in the production of the metal mirror. The period of training is 18 months. Ten students are given training in the centre.

PADDY WORK

Among the miscellaneous crafts may be mentioned Paddy Work. At Tiruvalla one craftsman is engaged in making pots by joining together paddy with thread. This craft is done nowhere else in the State. The articles have practically no market and hence the craftsman attends to this work only occasionally.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The industrial potential of Alleppey District has been the subject of special study and investigation by the Government. In 1962 the Kerala Government constituted a Special Committee to study the problems relating to the industrialisation of the coastal areas of the District, and to draw up a suitable programme for starting new industries. The Report of the Committee observes as follows in regard to the industrial potential of Alleppey. "In relation to the requirements of industrial expansion, the resources of the region are rather limited. The agricultural produce consists of paddy, coconuts, tapioca, sugar-cane, arcanut, rubber, pepper and ginger. Favoured by a lengthy coast line, there is good scope for

the development of fisheries. Also special mention may be made of the fine quality sand, which according to some foreign experts is the best in the world and is eminently suitable for glass-work."

The Committee in its report draws pointed attention to the undue dependence of the District on coir industry and coconut oil mills and recommends a programme of industrialisation for the coastal areas of the District with the following two-fold objectives. 1) Additional employment opportunities on a sufficiently large scale so as to arrest the present trend of ever-increasing unemployment, and effectively to reverse to it, and 2) The adoption of improved technology both in the new industries to be started and the old industries so that productive efficiency may be sufficiently high to enable employers to get better profits and pay higher wages. The following industries have been recommended by the Committee for being established in the District. 1) Ancillary Industries in the coastal areas of Alleppey that lie in the neighbourhood of the coastal areas of Alleppey that lie in the neighbourhood of the proposed Cochin shipyard, (2) Light Engineering industries, (3) Two textile mills of 12,000 spindles capacity, one in Alleppey town and suburbs and the other in Shertallai taluk. (4) A Sheet Glass Factory at Shertallai, (5) Two or three factories for the manufacture of Sand Lime Bricks in Shertallai, in addition to the one already set up at Pallipuram. (6) A factory for refrigeration canning and sale of fish and other marine products, (7) A factory for manufacturing paints and Varnishes with Cashew Shell Oil in Kattikapal Taluk, (8) A factory for manufacture of rubberised fibre products for upholstery, packing and insulating purposes, (9) A Multi-colour Litho Printing works in Alleppey, (10) A plant for manufacturing Titanium Tetra Chloride as a feeder to the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd, Trivandrum, (11) A Prophylactics manufacturing plant, (12) A factory for manufacturing of Taxi Meters, (13) A plant for manufacture of Marine Diesel Engines, (14) A plant for manufacture of Welding electrodes, (15) Manufacture of Foundry Forge and Machine Tools in Amtalapuzha Taluk.

In addition the Committee has also suggested the establishment of the following Small Scale Industries. (1) Aluminum Industries—Belts, Hinges, Fabrication etc., (2) Sanitary Fittings, (3) Bicycles, Cycle parts Manufacture—(existing units may be helped), (4) Manufacture of Bobbins, (5) Canning—Tapioca and Rice Flakes, (6) Electrical Appliances, Heaters, etc, (7) Foundries—existing ones to be developed (8) Glass industries, (9) Ice Factory—(More required) (10) Manufacture

of Fish Meal, 11) Tin Can Manufacture, 12) Umbrella fittings manufacture, 13) Varnishes and Paints Manufacture, 14) Cold storage of fish, 15) Straw Boards 16) Coir pith boards and Articles, 17) Pilfer proof Caps, 18) Watches, Clocks and Timepieces, 19) Miniature Bulbs, 20) Spectacle Frames, 21) Moulding sand. It has also recommended as a special case the establishment of two Cashew factories with an investment of Rs. 3 lakhs each.

The National Council of Applied Economic Research and the Small Industries Service Institute, Trichur, have also undertaken their studies in regard to the industrial possibilities of Alleppey District. The report of the Techno-Economic Survey of Kerala published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) suggests the establishment of a paper Mill and a power Alcoholic Factory in the vicinity of the sugar factories in this District. It is pointed out that the former may utilise the bagasse and the latter the molasses from these factories.


The Small Industries Service Institute suggests the possibility of establishing the following industries, 1) Vehicles and parts, 2) Machine tools, 3) Solvent extraction, 4) Tapioca Starch, 5) Straw Board factory, 6) Rubber Contraceptives, 7) Teats and valves, 8) Glass bottles, 9) Pilfer proof caps, 10) Wooden Joinery, 11) General Fabrication, 12) Sanitary and pipe fittings, 13) paper pins, 14) Playing Cards, 15) Instrument Boxes, 16) Spectacle Frames, and 17) Flash lights and Cases. In addition such industries as manufacture of Tyre Retreading Compound, Dried coconut, Wire drawing plants, Water meters, Steel re-rolling, Steel re-melting, Radio Components, Automobile spares, hardware items, etc. are also recommended as affording opportunities for profitable investment in the District.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS

The Alleppey District is the cradle of the trade union movement in the erstwhile Travancore area of the State. The workers of this District, particularly those employed in the Coir and oil Milling industries, are organised in trade unions sponsored by such all-India organisations as the all India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the United Trade Union Congress (UTUC) and Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS). The Travancore-Coir Workers Union, Alleppey, is the earliest trade union organised in this District. It was originally

known as the Tiruvitamcore Labour Association and it functioned even prior to 1100 K. E. (1923 A.D.). The Union was registered under the Indian Trade Union Act on Kurkatakam 9, 1113 (July 1938) with the object of improving the living conditions of the workers employed in the Coir industry and getting their grievances redressed through collective bargaining. It had a membership of about 20,000 in 1945. The Union has continued to function since then and it had a membership of 2,009 in 1964. According to the information furnished by the Registrar of Trade Unions there were 118 Trade Unions in Alleppey District on the 1st April 1964 with a total membership of 21,700. An industry-wise break-up of the number and membership of these trade unions is given below-

**INDUSTRY-WISE STATEMENT OF TRADE UNIONS IN ALLEPPEY
DISTRICT-MARCH 1, 1964**



	No. of UNIONS	Membership
1 Agriculture	13	2,645
2 Beedi	5	308
3 Toddy Tapping	5	1,534
4 Banking	1	44
5 Coir	15	7,253
6 Cashew	2	1,962
7 Fertilizer & Chemicals	1	9
8 Fishing	2	457
9 Handloom	6	369
10 Medicine & Public Health	2	94
11 Motor & Mechanical	8	128
12 Miscellaneous	9	356
13 Matches	5	181
14 Metal	2	25
15 Municipal	5	386
16 Plantation	1	24
17 Printing	2	99
18 Public Works (Electrical & P.W.D.)	3	314
19 Port & Docks	2	260
20 Oil Mills & Soap	6	895
21 Rubber Works	2	312
22 Quarrying	1	40

23	Shops & Establishments,	7	903
24	Sugar & Chemicals	2	562
25	Water Transport	11	2,540
Total		118	21,700

The most important employers' organisations in the District are the Travancore Coir Mats and Matting Manufacturers' Association, Alleppey, the Alleppey Oil Millers' and Merchants' Association, Alleppey, the Travancore Oil Millers Association, Alleppey, the Alleppey Produce Merchants Association, Alleppey, the Alleppey Piece Goods Merchants' Association, Alleppey, the Alleppey District Hotel and Tea Shop Owners' Association, Alleppey, the Ambalapuzha Taluk Abkari Contractors' Association, Alleppey, the Thiru-Cochin Coir Yarn Merchants' Association, Alleppey, the Fair Price Retail Merchants' Association, Alleppey, etc. A more detailed list is given in Chapter VI.

LABOUR LAWS

The most important labour laws administered in this District as elsewhere in the State are the following:- 1) the Factories Act 1948, 2) the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, 3) the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, 4) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, 5) the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, 6) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, 7) the Indian Boilers' Act, 1923, 8) the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, 9) the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, 10) the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958, 11) the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, 12) the Travancore-Cochin Shops and Establishments Act, 1125 (1950), 13) the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act, 1957 and 14) the Kerala Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1958. In addition to the benefits which accrue to the labourers from the application of the above Acts a section of the labourers in this District is also benefited by the provisions of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1918 and the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952.

MINIMUM WAGES

Minimum Wages have been introduced by Government in a number of scheduled industries. A list of such industries is given below: 1) Agricultural operation, 2) Beedi Manufacturing (under Tobacco Manufacturing), 3) Cashew Industry, 4) Manufacture of

Coir, 5) Local Authority, 6) Match Industry, 7) Municipalities Contingent Employees (under Local authority), 8) Oil Mills, 9) Panchayats in T. C. Area (Contingent employees (under local authority), 10) Printing Presses, 11) Public Motor Transport, 12) Rice Mills & Flour Mills, 13) Road Constructions or Building Operations, 14) Scented and chewing tobacco manufacturing (under tobacco manufacturing), 15) Shops and Establishments (including Hotel & Restaurants), 16) Stone breaking or stone crushing, 17) Tanneries and Leather Manufactory, 18) Timber Industry, 19) Toddy tapping.

INDUSTIAL RELATIONS

The Labour Department has followed a policy of encouraging settlement of industrial disputes by voluntary negotiation and conciliation minimising thereby the chances of reference of disputes for compulsory adjudication. When an industrial dispute arises, the trade union take it up with the management and conducts direct negotiation for settlement between the parties themselves. The Labour Department extends maximum co-operation to the Parties to settle the dispute by voluntary direct negotiation. If, by chance, the dispute is not settled by direct negotiation, the Assistant Labour Officer intervenes in the matter and conducts mediation with the disputants. If his attempt succeeds the parties are assisted to effect the settlement. In case the dispute is not settled by the Assistant Labour Officer, the District Labour Officer concerned intervenes and initiates conciliation proceedings. The parties would be exhorted to effect a settlement through conciliation. If a settlement is reached, its terms would be binding on the parties. If, on the other hand, the parties are not amenable to a settlement, the possibility of ironing out the differences would be through arbitration explored. If in case the suggestion for arbitration is not acceptable to the parties, the dispute would be referred to a Tribunal.

There are four Industrial Relations Committees (I.R.C.) in this District, viz., the Port I. R. C., the I. R. C. for Agriculture (I. R. C. for Kuttanad) the I. R. C. for Hill Produce and I. R. C. for Oil Mills. Besides, the functions of State-wide Industrial Relation Committees like those for Toddy Tapping Industry, Coir, etc., are also extended to this District. The decisions taken by the Industrial Relations Committees are followed by the employers and employees.

Because of the various decisions taken by the industrialists and unions through the Industrial Relations Committee, several of the disputes are settled amicably. As per existing labour laws industrial establishments which employ 100 or more workers should also organise Works Committees in their respective institutions. But there is only one such Committee functioning in this District, vizt Travancore Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., Tiruvalla. A Joint Management Council set up as per the directive of the Indian Labour Conference is functioning in the South India Rubber Works, Alleppey.

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL, ALLEPPEY

The Industrial Tribunal Alleppey, set up in 1956 has played an important part in the adjudication of Industrial disputes. A statement of the number of industrial disputes received and disposed of by the Industrial Tribunal, Alleppey from 1956-64 is given below

STATEMENT OF WORK OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL 1956-1964

Year	Balance of cases carried forward from the previous year	No. of cases received during the year	No. of cases disposed of	Number of cases Pending at the end of the year
1956	Nil	169	40	129
1957	129	33	115	47
1958	47	48	50	45
1959	45	61	47	59
1960	59	41	50	50
1961	50	42	27	65
1962	65	28	53	40
1963	40	38	23	55
1964	55	31	32	54

LAWS RELATING TO LABOUR WELFARE

The various measures adopted by Government and private industrialists to safeguard the welfare of the industrial labourers are dealt with in detail in the section on Labour Welfare in Chapter XVII.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS BANKING IN THE DISTRICT

The indigenous bank was the earliest medium of credit in the District. The term 'indigenous bank' includes any individual or private firm, whether receiving deposits or not and dealing in *hundi*s or lending money. There are two classes of indigenous bankers, viz., money lenders and *hundi* merchants. The former confine their activity to money lending and do not ordinarily take in deposits while the latter, besides lending money, take in deposits and do business in money changing.

The origin of indigenous banking in erstwhile Travancore may be traced back to the beginning of the 19th century. The Brahmin businessmen, who came from the Madurai-Tirunelveli region of Madras State, settled in important urban centres and *hundi* business. The bulk of the business was conducted as family concerns, the eldest male member being in management. The financing of practically the whole internal trade was in the hands of these *hundi* merchants. The smaller industrial concerns also received occasional accommodation from them. The *hundi* merchants received deposits on a system called *pattavarani* which may be described as current accounts. The interest was calculated on the daily balance. They issued letters of credit or *melezhuthu* and dealt in *hundi* which may be described as an inland bill or exchange or sight draft. The depositors were given a pass book in which receipts and withdrawals were noted. They also advanced loans on pro-note on single or joint signatures. The interest varied from 12 to 24%. Their accounts were written in Tamil. The advent of the Joint Stock Bank limited the scope of their business and the class of *hundi* merchants of today almost become extinct.

The indigenous money lenders have also been prominent in the field of rural credit in erstwhile Travancore, particularly in Alleppey District. There were quite a few of them in the Kuttanad taluk where they financed agriculture. Almost 75% of the financing of agriculture in Kuttanad, "the granary of the State" had been in the hands of the Brahmin money-lenders of Mankombu. One of the witnesses who appeared before the Travancore Banking Enquiry Committee of 1930 estimated the annual requirements of Kuttanad at Rs. 10 lakhs. The indigenous money lender lent not only money but

also paddy. Their rate of interest varied from 6 to 12% on money and 10 to 20% on paddy. The bulk of the loans was unsecured. The loan was generally for a single year. The credit offered by the money-lenders of Mankombu was cheap compared to the rates of interest charged by the money-lenders in other parts of India. Referring to the highly "constructive and creditable role" which the money-lenders of Maikombu played in the financing of agricultural operations in Kuttanad the authors of the *Land Reclamation in Kerala* observes, "The ubiquitous money-lender who is often caricatured as the villain of the piece in the Indian economy comes off with flying colours as the hero of this drama".¹ In addition to these Brahmin money-lenders there have also been other money-lenders in the area who carried on transactions with small cultivators and traders levying higher rates of interest. However, with the growth of joint stock and co-operative banks the Mankombu money-lenders and others have withdrawn from the field of rural credit.

INDEBTEDNESS

Indebtedness, rural and urban, has been a serious economic problem in the country for decades and this District is no exception to it. Writing about the condition of the Travancore ryot early in this century V. Nagam Ayya observes as follows. "The comparative immunity from famines does not, however, mean that the Travancore ryot is in a state of affluence. On the contrary every ryot, 9 out of 10 of them, has always some debt standing against him owing to a variety of causes. But it is equally certain that no material portion of the ryot population in Travancore can be said to be in a state of what would be called ruined indebtedness nor are there cases of ryots owning land having gone down to the lower order of the agricultural labourers, as seem to be the case in some of the British Districts. It is, however, a well recognised fact that there are not many rich ryots in the sense of having a superabundance of wealth and influence as there are merchant princes here and elsewhere among Sindhikars, Komatties and Nattukottai Chetties wielding immense power over states. Agriculture even under the most favourable conditions never raises a man to this high pitch of prosperity nor does it bring him down suddenly to the depths of poverty of bankruptcy".¹ These observations of Nagam Ayya which apply to the position of Travancore ryot in the whole of Travancore State in the early years of this century hold good for the Alleppey District as well.

1. *Land Reclamation in Kerala, rural and urban*, p. 94.

1. *Travancore State Manual*, V. Nagam Ayya, pp. 133-34.

Agricultural indebtedness has been steadily on the increase since the early decades of this century. Though district-wise figures of indebtedness are not available, it may be noted that the extent of indebtedness in Travancore in 1903-1904 was estimated at 2.40 crores by the then settlement Divan Peishkar. The Travancore banking Enquiry Committee (1930) conducted an elaborate investigation including an intensive survey of 13 villages in Travancore and placed the total agricultural indebtedness of this State at Rs.25 crores. At the same time according to the Economic Census of 1931 the total debt came to Rs. 20 crores and the average per capita debt to about Rs. 40. Of this debt about 69.5% was secured on land, 26.6% being mortgages with possession. The average debt was found to be the highest among the Brahmins and the lowest among the backward communities.

Three villages in this District viz., Muttam Kara (Karthikappally Taluk), Eraviperur Kara (Tiruvalla Taluk) and Kodenturuthu Kara (Shertallai Taluk) were covered by the intensive survey conducted by the Banking Enquiry Committee. A brief analysis of the findings of the Survey in respect of these villages is given below.

Muttam was a small kara having an area of 186.48 acres in Valiakuzhi pakuthi of the Karthikappally Taluk. It had a population of 1,065 souls living in 169 houses. Both Agriculturists and non-agriculturists in this village were in debt 98. per cent of the whole population was highly involved in debts, the root cause being the high rate of *michavaram*. About 25 per cent of the whole debts was due to arrears of *michavaram*. Agriculturists had a total debt of Rs.25,809 which came to about Rs.293 per family. Non-agriculturists had a total debt of Rs. 13,543 which comes to about Rs. 233 per family. This clearly shows that the cultivator was worse off than the non-cultivator.

Eraviperur, a kara in the Tiruvalla Taluk, was 943.6 acres in extent. It had a population of 2,875 in 382 families. Both the agriculturists and non-agriculturists in this village were encumbered both by poor income and want of properly controlled financing agencies. The agriculturists had a total debt of Rs. 67,383 which worked out to about 572 per family.

Kodenturuthu Kara is about 9 miles north of Shertallai town. The total area of the kara was 785 acres and the population 3,869. The debts contracted by the agriculturists distributed according to

their source and nature of security are given in the following statement.

Nature of security	Source	Amount Rs.
Mortgage and Hypothecation	Government Agricultural Loans	4,860
	Co-operative Societies	420
	Money-lenders and others	1,35,570
	Joint Stock Banks	2,218
Pro-notes	Buyer of produce	905
	Co-operative Societies	6,032
	Money-lenders & others	79,428
	Joint Stock Banks	2,000
Movables (Jewels)	Joint Stock Banks	2,995
	Money-lenders and others	348
Unsecured loans		9,893
	Total	<u>2,44,669</u>

The average debt per head was Rs. 78 and per family Rs. 432. Secured debt was 58.4 per cent among the agriculturists, and 51 per cent among the non-agriculturists. The interest on loans added to the principals worked up to Rs. 8,493 every year. Loans most commonly began on personal security or on simple pro-notes and developed into mortgages as interest accumulated and the loan amount swelled. The mortgagees were mostly the richer ryots who leased the land to the debtors themselves. This was followed by default in payment of rent and the land was permanently transferred from the original farmer to the richer men in course of time. The usual rate of interest was 12 per cent per annum. The heavy debt on the head of the farmer took from him the incentive for cultivation and further improvement. It was seldom that lands once mortgaged were redeemed. The borrowings of the agriculturists according to purpose were as follows.

Purpose of loans	Amount Rs.
Prior debts	2,14,904
Marriage and other social events	224
Scarcity	165
Land improvement	5,423
Payment of land revenue and michavaram	5,022
Building	1,825

Education	400
Litigation	2,138
Food and other necessities of life	1,765
Marketing and trade	12,803
Total:	<u>2,44,669</u>

Prior debts worked up to 87 per cent among the agriculturists and 57 per cent among the non-agriculturists. The percentage of debt incurred for the purpose of trade was 5 among agriculturists and 23 among non-agriculturists. The grain loans were taken mostly by Pulayas for marriage purposes usually at 20 per cent.

During the great Economic Depression of the thirties, the problem of rural indebtedness assumed alarming proportions in this District as elsewhere in the country. Agriculturists were adversely affected by the steep fall in the prices of agricultural products, and many fell into the clutches of money lenders. The Government of Travancore took steps to reduce the rate of interest on loans as well as to relieve agricultural distress in general. In 1935 the Agricultural Debt Redemption Committee was appointed to consider ways and means of tackling the problem of agricultural indebtedness and the Agricultural Debt Relief Act was passed in 1937 to implement its recommendations. Conciliation Boards were set up under the Act in different parts of the State. Moreover, the Travancore Credit Bank was established in 1938 to help agriculturists and industrialists with loans for the development of agriculture and industry. The relief measures, however, proved inadequate to meet the actual requirements of the situation. Hence in 1939 the Travancore Government appointed the Agriculture Debt Relief Enquiry Committee to go into the question of indebtedness in all its aspects. This was followed by the enactment of the Travancore Debt Relief Act of 1940 which provided for a scaling down of debts incurred before January 1937. The Act applied to all debtors, agriculturists or others. Under the Act about 69,000 petitions were received until 1944-45. The total number of rural families in Travancore was about 10 lakhs, but only a small proportion of the indebted families took advantage of the Act. The average size of debt per petition in the case of 34,119 petitions disposed of was Rs. 579.

RURAL CREDIT SURVEY (1950-51)

The report of the Rural Credit Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in 1951-52 throws light on the extent of rural indebtedness in this District. The erstwhile Quilon District which included

the bulk of the present Alleppey District was one of the 75 Districts selected by the Reserve Bank of India for the conduct of the survey. Out of the 8 villages covered by the Survey 5 were from this District. They are Kallikad (Karthikapally Taluk), Pathiyur (Karthikapally Taluk), Valamangalam South (Shertallai Taluk), Kanjurkottakkakam (Karthikapally Taluk) and Kurichimuttam (Tiruvalla Taluk). Out of the 1951 cultivating families covered by the survey 478 families or 25 per cent did not report any debt. About 29 per cent of the cultivating families reported that their debt was less than Rs. 100 and Rs. 300. The remaining 24 per cent reported their debt to be more than Rs. 300. The average outstanding debt per family was determined by two factors, viz., the level of debt per indebted family and the proportion of the indebted families among all families. Among the cultivating families the proportion of indebted families varied from 52 per cent in Kanjurkottakkakam and Rs. 649 in Valamangalam South. The relevant data in regard to the villages covered by the survey in the present Alleppey District are given in the following table.

Villages according to the debt position of cultivators

Village	Percentage of indebted families	Average debt per family Rs.	Debt per indebted family Rs.
Kallikkad	69.8	367	525
Pathiyur	88.5	365	412
Valamangalam South	84.5	549	649
Kanjurkottakkakam	51.7	162	314
Kurichimuttam	91.0	481	528

The debt owned by the selected cultivating families to different credit agencies was classified into 8 broad categories with reference to purposes and periods of borrowings. These categories were short-term and long-term under each of the three purposes, viz., agricultural, non-agricultural and consumption purposes, and repayment of old debts and "other" purposes. Long time agricultural purposes were taken to include medium-term agricultural purposes also. The proportion of debt incurred for the various purposes and periods to the total debt outstanding was 5.5 per cent for agricultural short-time, 10.8 per cent for agricultural long-term, 9.9 per cent for short-term consumption and 28.8 per cent for long-term consumption. The remaining 45 per cent was for "non-agricultural purposes". The data on debt classified according to various purposes, viz., capital expenditure on farm, current expenditure on farm, non-farm business expenditure, family expenditure and other expenditure etc., are given in the following table.

Purposes	Outstanding debt for various purposes		
	Debt reported for this purpose as percentage of total debt		
	Upper strata	Lower strata	All cultivators
Capital expenditure on farm	7	22	11
Current expenditure on farm	6	2	6
Non-farm business expenditure	33	3	25
Family expenditure	46	26	31
Other expenditure	17	27	19
More than one purpose and unspecified purposes	11	—	8
Total	100	100	100

In respect of the selected cultivators, the debt incurred for expenditure on farm accounted for less than 1/5th of the total debt, while that for family expenditure accounted for about 1/3rd.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE FISHERFOLK (1956)

In addition to the Rural Credit Survey (1950-51) the report of the Socio-Economic Survey of the Fisherfolk in the villages of Purakkad and Arathunkal conducted in 1954 under the auspices of the Travancore-Cochin Economic Research Council also throws light on certain aspects of the problem of rural indebtedness and the relative importances of the different agencies of credits. The survey covered a period of six months from April 15, 1954. The relevant findings of the survey of these two villages are given here.

In Purakkad out of the 70 households in the sample 66(94.3%) were found to be in debt during the first fortnight of the survey. Between the first and the final fortnights the total volume of debts rose from Rs. 25,846 to Rs. 30,447 and the average indebtedness per household increased from Rs. 430.8 to Rs. 461.3. As many as 48 loans out of 75 transactions were incurred for non-productive purpose. But the amount borrowed for such purposes formed only 25.5% of the total debts. This meant that most of the small loans were consumption loans. Owners of boats and nets figured as the most prominent lenders as 27 households borrowed from them. They were closely followed by merchants who financed 26 households. Rates of interest varied from 6% to 20%. The effective rate was found to be higher than 12%. Implements and personal security were the common forms of security for loans. Only one household lent out money but loans given out were found to be lower than loans taken in by that family.

In Arthunkal 55 households were selected for study. In the first fortnight as many as 98.2% of the households were returned as debtors. They had a total indebtedness of Rs. 8,892 and an average debt of Rs. 114. The percentage of indebted households fell to 92.7 in the enumeration of the last fortnight, but the volume of debts rose by 7% to Rs. 9,524. Three-quarters of the households had debt below Rs. 200. Non-productive loans formed 58.1% of the total debts in the first fortnight but were reduced to 45.5% in the final fortnight. The number of loans contracted for non-productive purposes formed 78% of the total number of loan transactions. Out of 51 indebted households 15 borrowed from merchants and a like number from relatives and neighbours. Indigenous bankers accommodated 10 households. The remaining households took loans from owners of boats and nets. There was no instance of bank-borrowing. The rates prevalent varied from 6 to 60%. Ornaments and other assets figured as security for loans. In certain cases loans were repaid by the performance of services. There were 13 households reporting lending but only two of them were net lenders.

VILLAGE SURVEY (1961)

The Village Survey conducted as part of the 1961 Census also throws light on the problem of rural indebtedness in the District. Bharanikavu was one of the four villages covered by the survey¹. It was seen in the course of the study of the family budgets of 113 households in the village that only 58.41 per cent of them had surplus budgets, the percentage of deficit budgets being 41.59. There was no household having balanced budget. The number of households with deficit budget was highest in the occupational group of agricultural labour. The deficit households made up their deficits by borrowed money or sale proceeds of some property.

It was seen that 50 out of 113 households in Bharanikavu were in debts of varying amounts. The largest number of indebted households were in the income group of Rs. 76 to Rs. 100 though there were households in debt in all other income groups as well. The percentage of households in debt was highest in the income group of Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. The average amount of debt varied from Rs. 215.71 in the lowest income group to Rs. 1,316.07 in the highest income group. The largest percentage of debt was due to marriage and the lowest due to sickness. House construction, household cultivation and ordinary wants were equally important causes of debt. For one household education was the main cause of debt.

1. See Chapter IX for further details of the survey.

JOINT STOCK BANKS

Joint Stock Banks made their appearance in this District at the very dawn of this century. The earliest bank to be established was the Travancore Bank Ltd., at Tiruvalla by about 1900. This initial effort was emulated by other enterprising people and when the new Companies Regulation of 1917 was passed 4 registered banking institutions were doing business in erstwhile Travancore. One of these was the Ambalapuzha Christain Bank. Among the Joint Stock Banks which were subsequently established in this District special mention may be made of the Travancore State-Aided Bank which was established in 1101 K.E. (1926) at Alleppey. It was intended almost entirely as a commercial bank to carry on the business of banking in all its branches and departments. Hence it was subjected to several restrictions in regard to its working. It was not empowered to advance or lend money or open cash credit or mortgage in any manner solely upon the security of the immovable property. Nevertheless, the bank was at liberty to accept immovable property as collateral security in addition to any other authorised security. The bank could not make any loan or advance for a period longer than 6 months. These restrictions precluded it from being serviceable to agriculturists. The average size of the banks then was very small. During the period following the end of the first World War there was a phenomenal growth in the number of banks. A particularly powerful impetus to the banking activity was given between 1927 and 1930 which period coincided with the peak level of world prosperity. The number of banks in Travancore in 1929-30 was 251 which constituted about 1/5th of the total number of banks then existing in the whole of the erstwhile British India. The number of banks in erstwhile Travancore State had increased from 5 in 1917 to 274 in 1932-33. A good many of the new banks were mostly located in the central Taluks, especially Tiruvalla and Ambalapuzha in this District. The profitability of the existing banking concerns was, however, adversely affected during the period of Economic Depression. A Committee appointed by the erstwhile Travancore Government to enquire into the Economic Depression stated that "the banking concerns of the State are indeed severely affected. Moneys lent out are practically locked up". The period 1936-37 to 1943-44 saw the disappearance of a large number of banks. This was the result of the passing of the Travancore Companies Act (Act IX of 1114 K.E.) introduced by the then Travancore Government for the regulation of the business of Joint Stock enterprises. The Act imposed certain restrictions on banking activities

including one prohibiting them from conducting *chitties*. The sudden liquidation of the National Quilon Bank in 1938 created a major crisis in the banking industry and there was a decline in the number of banks. However, there was simultaneously considerable branch expansion on the part of the existing banks.

At present there are only three important banks registered in this District. They are the Alleppey Bank, Alleppey, the Asoka Bank, Shertallai and the Champakulam Catholic Bank, Champakulam. Of these the first two have been included by the Reserve Bank among Class B Non-Scheduled Banks having paid-up capital and reserves between Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 5 lakhs, and the last one among Class C Non-Scheduled Banks having paid up capital and reserves between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 1,00,000. The particulars such as the date of establishment of these banks, paid up capital, reserves, total deposits, total liabilities and number of offices as on 31st December 1964 are given below.

Particulars	Alleppey Bank, ¹ Alleppey	Asoka Bank, ² Shertallai	Champakulam Catholic Bank, Champakulam
	(figures in thousands)	(figures in thousands)	(figures in thousands)
Paid up Capital	50	224	38
Reserves	54	46	25
Total deposits	415	492	180
Total liabilities	543	1,024	316
Number of Offices	1	2	1

1 Assets and liabilities transferred to the Federal Bank Ltd., Alwaye on December 12, 1964

2 Assets and liabilities transferred to the Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd., Trichur on December 8, 1964

The majority of the banks functioning in the District are those registered outside the District. A complete list of such banks operating in the District as on December 31, 1964 is given as Appendix I. It may be seen that there is a concentration of banks in Alleppey which is a busy commercial centre. There were as many as 15 banks functioning in this town.

CHITTIES

The chitti is an indigenous institution for providing credit facilities as well as for investment of savings¹. Chitties are organised by foremen. The conditions under which they are conducted are laid down in the form of an agreement known as the *variola* and they are filed in the office of the Chitti Registrars, while registering the *chitties*. The Sub-Registrars are *ex officio* Chitti Registrars empowered by the Government to register *chitties* and issue licences under the Chitties Act of 1120 (Act XXVI of 1120 (1944-45) and the rules and orders issued thereunder. Each *chitti* has got a fixed capital with a fixed number of tickets. *Chitties* are conducted periodically on the date, specified in the *variola*. The subscribers send in their subscriptions periodically and the amounts thus collected are paid to the price winners. The winner is determined either by drawing lots or by auction among the subscribers. The former is known as *narukku chitti* and latter *lela chitti*. In the majority of cases the prize winner is determined by auction. Chitties whose capital is Rs. 100 and above have to be registered furnishing cash equal to the capital of the *Chitti* or immovable properties valued at double the amount of the capital of security. Chitties whose capital is below Rs. 100 may be conducted after obtaining licences. The filing of Reports described under the *Chitties* Act and Rules has to be watched by the Chitti Registrars.

In this District various types of chitties were being licensed by the Sub-Registry Offices, eg., weekly chitties, monthly chitties, bi-monthly chitties, quarterly chitties, etc. According to the information furnished by the District Registrar, Alleppey, 2,223 *chitties* had been registered in the 19 Sub-Registry Offices of Alleppey District during the ten years from 1951-52 to 1961-62. The turnover of the *chitties* conducted during this period was Rs. 2,18,40,221.

CREDIT SOCIETIES AND BANKS

The co-operative movement in erstwhile Travancore was initiated under the auspices of the Government. The first important piece of legislation concerning Co-operative Societies was the Co-operative Societies Regulation passed in 1089 K.E. (1913-14). Its object was to facilitate the formation of societies for the promotion of thrift and self-help among agriculturists, artisans and persons of limited means.

¹ For detailed account of the origin and working of Chit funds see All India Rural Credit Survey—District Monograph, Quilon, pp. 118-35.

The financing of the societies was left to the Central Co-operative Bank with its capital at Trivandrum.

The earliest credit society which sprang up in Alleppey District in the wake of the passing of the Co-operative Societies Regulation was the Ramapuram Service Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 11 in Karthikapally Taluk. Established in 1914-15, it has passed through several vicissitudes during its 50 years of existence. In 1964 it had 436 members with a share capital of Rs. 22,585 and a working capital of Rs. 66,000. It supplies the annual credit needs of its members for agricultural purposes to the extent of Rs. 50,000. Besides providing credit both in kind and cash the Society has also undertaken the distribution of foodgrains to its members under the rationing scheme.

A number of other societies also came to be formed in various parts of the District following the enactment of the Co-operative Societies Regulation of 1089 K.E. The area of operation of these societies was limited 2 or 3 *karas*, and their membership was generally confined to people belonging to a particular community or denomination. These primary societies raised their working capital by collecting share amounts, deposits from members and sometimes, by loans from the Central Co-operative Bank, which was functioning as the sole financing agency for the whole State. For the first five or six years the movement as a whole did not make such headway. But with the formation of Taluk Co-operative Banks for financing the credit societies functioning in the Taluks and supervising unions for organisation and supervision, the co-operative movement received great impetus, particularly in this District. With more and more funds being made available to the primaries through the Taluk Co-operative Banks and necessary guidance and supervision being exercised by the Taluk Co-operative Unions, the movement made rapid progress. The societies not only issued loans but also entered into activities such as conduct of *chitties*, distribution of consumer articles, etc. A new system of issuing loans on the security of the usufructs from the coconut trees surrendered to the society strengthened the credit structure of the movement as it helped the prompt realisation of the loans issued to the members from out of the sale proceeds of coconuts. This practice better known as the *Kottuthengu* system was largely adopted in the Shertallai Taluk and it paved the way for the steady growth of the movement during the 1st half of this century. Some 40 such societies with membership varying from 200 to 400 were organised in different parts of the Taluk during this period. Thanks to the zealous

efforts of some non-official co-operators the movement made rapid progress in this area covering different fields of economic activity. Even in 1123 (1947-48) there were 83 societies with a total membership of 15,596 and an aggregate share capital of Rs. 1,76,410. The total amount of loans issued to members by these societies during that year was Rs. 3,28,050. Besides the credit activities, many of these societies were undertaking other service functions, like the distribution of consumer articles, seeds, agricultural implements, processing of coconuts etc. Some 26 societies were having their own buildings and landed properties and were efficiently managed through full-time paid employees. The progress achieved in other parts of District during the period was also satisfactory.

It is with the implementation of the Plan schemes and the Package Programme that a fillip has been given to the growth of the co-operative movement in the District. From a comparative study of the statement furnished in the table on the next page it may be seen that in respect of membership, share capital, working capital, offtake of loans, etc., the agricultural credit co-operatives have been making commendable progress. Almost 50% of the agricultural families have been brought within the fold of the co-operative movement. Towards the end of 1964 the average membership of societies was 368, average share capital per society Rs. 13,680, average deposit Rs. 9,475 and average working capital Rs. 42,100.

सत्यमेव जयते

STATEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE BANKS AND CREDIT SOCIETIES - 1963-64
Rupees in lakhs

Type of Society	No. of Socs.		No. of members		Paid up Share capital		Working capital		Deposits		Loans issued	
	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964
Central Bank	1	1	313	363	10.8	19.64	42.6	80.00	20.0	28.9	27.0	53.32
Primary Land Mortgage Bank	1	2	943	1,531	0.12	0.60	0.42	8.43	0.02	0.02	..	4.44
Agricultural large sized credit societies	20	25	15,689	19,800	6.09	8.85	7.04	27.86	2.05	3.30	9.09	12.37
Agricultural small sized & Rural Banks and Service Societies	280	356	89,768	120,353	25.03	43.42	113.04	140.81	25.00	33.09	58.04	73.66
Taluk Banks	3	3	3,202	3,385	1.07	1.67	6.04	7.01	4.02	4.42	2.01	0.64
Urban Banks	3	2	913	1,010	6.03	0.26	1.03	1.22	0.92	0.92	0.25	0.64
Employees credit societies	9	10	1,124	2,369	0.05	0.60	0.76	1.63	..	0.02	1.25	1.65

Brief accounts of three important institutions working in the fields of co-operative banking and credit are given below.

1 ALLEPPEY DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

This is the central financing institution of the District. The Bank started functioning on September 1, 1958 with 177 members and a paid up share capital of Rs. 1,67,300. In 1963-64 its membership had increased to 357 of whom 331 were affiliated primary societies and its share capital was Rs. 98.4 lakhs. The bank was in a position to issue an amount of Rs.42 lakhs by way of loans through its affiliated primaries during 1963-64. The bank is mainly concerned with the issue of production loans and tapping of local deposits. With a view to maintaining a close link with the primaries, the Bank has opened its branches at Chengannur and Shertallai.

2 TIRUVALLA EAST CO-OPERATIVE BANK NO. 3260

This is the biggest primary co-operative institution in the District. Established on October 10, 1952 with head-quarters at Eraviperur, a village in Tiruvalla Taluk, this rural bank had in 1963-64 a paid-up share capital of Rs. 3.17 lakhs subscribed by its 5,047 members. The local deposits amounting Rs. 23.7 lakhs formed the major portion of its working capital. Without any outside borrowings, the institution could advance an amount of Rs. 16.3 lakhs during 1963-64. It has branches at Kizhuvaipur, Koipuram, Perumpatty and Tadiyur,

3 PULLIKANAKKU SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY NO. 781

The biggest large sized service society, in the District, the Pullikanakku Service Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 781 is situated at Pullikanakku, some two miles east of Kayamkulam town. With a paid up share capital of Rs. 1.13 lakhs subscribed by its 2,729 members this primary credit institution owned reserves to the tune of Rs. 29,780 and investments amounting to Rs. 32,820 as on June 30, 1964. Borrowing Rs. 2.5 lakhs from the Central Bank, the society issued an amount of Rs. 2.69 lakhs as loans to its members during 1963-64.

RELATIVE ROLE OF DIFFERENT CREDIT AGENCIES

It is difficult to assess the relative role of the different agencies for the supply of credit owing to the paucity of reliable data. The data collected in a Sample Survey conducted during the Farm Management investigation in the Kuttanad area by the Economics Department of the University of Kerala in the Third Five Year Plan period throw some light on this aspect of the question. Out of a sample of 40

cultivators covered by the survey 25, i.e., 62.5% had borrowed for purposes of meeting cultivation expenses. The following table furnishes the relative magnitude and terms of credit supplied by the different agencies.

**BORROWINGS OF SELECTED CULTIVATORS CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO SOURCE**

Credit Agency	Amount Rs.	Proportion to total borrowing percentage	Average rate of interest per- centage
Total	1,44,500	100.00	
Individuals	86,000	59.52	8.16
Co-operative			
Societies	40,100	27.75	6.02
Commercial Banks	18,400	12.73	6.44

It may be seen from the foregoing figures that about 60% of the credit requirements were met by individuals such as money-lenders, relatives, etc. The money-lenders charged only moderate rates of interest ranging between 8 and 12 percent. The Co-operative Societies and commercial banks accounted for 28% and 12% respectively of the institutional credit. The cheapest form of credit was co-operative credit. It may also be noted that the proportion of institutional credit, viz., 40% is quite high compared to the position in India as a whole.

LIFE INSURANCE

The Alleppey District comes under the jurisdiction of the Trivandrum Division of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The Corporation has three Branch Offices at Alleppey, Chengannur and Kayamkulam in the District. The Alleppey Branch office which was opened in April 1957 has jurisdiction over the taluks of Ambalapuzha and Kuttanad. The Branch at Chengannur was started in May 1961. It controls the business of the taluks of Chengannur and Mavelikara. The Kayamkulam Branch which started functioning from May, 1962, has jurisdiction over the taluk of Kuthikapally. The Tiruvalla Taluk comes under the control of the Changana-cherri Branch Office and Shertallai Taluk under the Cochin Branch Office.

There were 963 insurance agents working under the L. I. C. in this District on 31 st March 1964. The total number of policies issued and the total sum assured for each of the years from 1958 to 1964 are given below:-

Year	No. of Policies	Sum assured Rs.
1958	4, 178	1, 05, 75, 250
1959	5, 534	1, 57, 91, 500
1960	5, 761	1, 82, 69, 500
1961	8, 334	2, 66, 96, 750
1962	8, 595	3, 29, 23, 050
1963-64(from 1. 1. 1963 to 31. 3. 1964)	9, 911	3, 52, 69, 250

AID TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

KERALA FINANCIAL CORPORATION

The Kerala Financial Corporation which was established in 1953 under the State Financial Corporation Act 1951 functions with headquarters at Trivandrum. The Corporation has played a significant part in the industrial advancement of the District. Up to March 31, 1964 it had granted 13 loans in this District totalling Rs. 19, 24, 09, 800 and benefiting such industries as Stone Quarrying, clay and sand pits, tea manufacturing, cotton textiles, coir manufacture, saw milling, plywood, tyres and tubes, rubber footwear, fertilisers, tiles, agricultural machinery, motion picture production and manufacture of edible oils. The loans are ordinarily repayable in 10 half yearly equated instalments. The rate of interest charged is 7% p.c. annum with a rebate of $\frac{1}{2}$ % for prompt repayment of all the instalments on the due dates, the rebate being generally against the last instalments or at the time of closing of the loan account, or earlier. A detailed statement of the loans granted to industries in the Alleppey District upto March 31, 1964 is given below.

Type of Industry	Applied for No. Amount	Sanctioned No. Amount	Disbursed No. Amount
Total	23 38,95,000	19 24,09,800	19 21,61,925
1 Tea Manufacturing	2 4,00,000	1 2,00,000	1 1,15,000
2 Coir Manufacturing	8 12,45,000	7 5,62,000	7 5,62,000

3	Saw Milling	2	1,00,000	3	67,000	2	62,000
4	Tyres&Tubes including Tyre re-treading	1	10,000	1	10,000	1	10,000
5	Rubber Foot Wear	2	5,00,000	2	4,06,000	2	3,50,000
6	Fertilizers-Mixed	2	50,000	2	45,000	2	45,000
7	Agricultural Machinery	1	9,00,000	1	7,25,000	1	6,25,000
8	Totion Picture Produ- ction distribution & Projection	1	4,00,000	1	2,44,800	1	2,42,925
9	Manufacture of Edible Oils (other than hydrogenated oils)	4	2,90,000	2	1,50,000	2	1,50,000

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

The State Government issue loans to industries under the State Aid to Industries Act. Loans under this bear simple interest at 5 2/1% and are repayable in yearly or half-yearly instalments within a period of 29 years. The loans under Small Scale Industries Aid Scheme bear simple interest at 3 1/2% and are repayable in yearly or half-yearly instalments within 11 years. The details of the loans granted under both Schemes in the Alleppey District upto March 31, 1964 are given below:-

LOANS UNDER STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES ACT UP TO MARCH 31, 1964

Sl. No.	Name of industry	Loan sanctioned Rs.
	Total	12,06,340
1	Tapioca starch & Indigo production	8,00
2	Coir industry	1,64,200
3	Oil Mill & Oil Crushing industry	61,625
4	Bell Metal Industry	19,470
5	Mechanical & Engineering works	30,000
6	Manufacture of washing soaps	3,500
7	Saw Mill	14,500
8	Manufacture of bricks	22,500
9	Cottage Industries C.S.	2,00
10	Handicrafts Co-op. Society	10,000
11	Artisans Co-op; Society	4,000

12	Family Welfare Co-op: Society.	2,000
13	Beedi, Cigars & Scented tobacco	12,000
14	Soda Manufacturing Unit	7,000
15	Umbrella Manufacturing Unit	9,000
16	Workmen's Industrial S. S Co-op: Society	5,000
17	Manufacture of Wire Nails	6,000
18	Confectionery	11,200
19	Wood Works & Furniture Mart	16,500
20	Coir Industry	10,000
21	Metal Utensils	6,000
22	Book Binding	11,800
23	Bicycle Unit	2,10,280
24	Musical Instruments	4,855
25	Soap Industry	24,200
26	Areca nut industry	5,000
27	Oil Mill & Rice Mill	36,200
28	Printing Types	7,000
29	Ayurvedic Medicine	43,000
30	Motor Electro Works	29,050
31	Diary Industry	1,000
32	Kattan Industry	2,500
33	Prawn pulp Industry	60.00
34	Saw Mill	40,200
35	Splints & Veneers	17,500
36	Manufacture of locks, etc	9,000
37	Polish & Varnish	4,750
38	Timber & Furniture	7,500
39	Fruit Preservation	30 000
40	Agricultural tools	24,000
41	Parliamentary Wings	20,800
42	Fishing Boat	4 000
43	Steel Cutlery	9,600
44	Match Industry	5,000
45	Rubber Industry	87,500
46	Metal Industry	11,600
47	Stone Metals	2,000
48	Glass Factory	1,22,502

**LOANS UNDER SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AID SCHEME UP TO
MARCA 31, 1966**

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	Loans Sanctioned Rs,
	Total	89,075
1	Match Industry	1,200
2	Printing Press	2,000
3	Fruit Canning Industry	1,900
4	Manufacture of Cameras	750
5	Carpentry Unit	8,300
6	Soap Industry	2,500
7	Dyeing & Printing of Cloths	1,025
8	Country Boat Making	3,900
9	Bel metal & Metal Industry and fabrication of iron	9,500
10	Also yarn industry	4 000
11	Preparation of Ayurvedic medicines	4,000
12	Manufacture of fountain pen	4,000
13	Manufacture of rattan furniture	2,000
14	Coir Mats and Mattings	5,000
15	Candle works	4,500
16	Bakery units and confectionery works	6 500
17	Book binding	8 000
18	Agricultural implements	4 003
19	Leather Industry	3 500
20	Assembling of Clocks	1,500
21	Lime manufacture	1,000
22	Type foundry works	1,500
23	Manufacture of spare parts	2 500
24	Manufacture of cycle parts	2,500
25	Manufacture of Batteries and essence oil	2 000
26	Copper vessels urban utensils, etc.	2,000

RURAL INDUSTRIES PROJECT

The Rural Industries Project, Alleppey also provides loans to industrial units. One of the schemes of the Project provides for giving financial assistance to industrialists for putting up factories or workshop buildings. The aid under this scheme is given on instalment basis according to the progress of the work and the repayment towards the loan is to be made in 240 equal monthly instalments. According to another scheme machinery is made available

on easy hire purchase basis to village artisans is given for the purchase of small machines such as lathes, drilling machines, grinding machines, improved hand tools circular saws, etc. A sum of Rs. 45,718.98 was spent up to October 1964 under this head for the development of the following industries.

Name of Industry	Amount Rs.
Production of Polythene packing materials	28,852.50
Manufacture of Agricultural implements	8,186.97
Dehusking of paddy	997.19
Production of Poha	2,528.32
Production of standard doors & windows	5,154.00

The Rural Industries Project also advances loans to industrialists as is done under the Small Scale Industries Loan Rules. An amount of Rs. 19,700 was lent till October 1964 to the industrialists of the area under this scheme for the development of the following industries.

Industry	Amount Rs.
Production of jute matting and rug	5,000
Coir rope making	5,000
Production of Polythene packing materials	7,200
Match Industry	7,500
Production of Hand pulling cart	7,500
Production of standard doors and windows	7,500

KERALA STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., established in July 1961 has recently been playing an important part in the industrial development of the State. In this District the Corporation has taken the initiative in forming the Kerala Spinners Ltd., Alleppey. This company which has an authorised capital of one crore of Rupees is to manufacture cotton yarn with a capacity of 25,000 spindles. The Corporation has agreed to take shares to the value of Rs. 10 lakhs in the Company.

KERALA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

The Kerala State Small Industries Corporation Ltd., which was also established in July 1961 is rendering assistance in the industrial development of this District. The Industrial Estate at Kollakadavu, the details of which are given in the Chapter on Industries, is

managed by this Corporation. In addition the Corporation also proposes to set up a second Industrial Estate at Shertallai. It has also taken over the straw Board Factory at Parumala and has opened a Raw Material Depot in the Industrial Estate at Kollakadavu.

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME

The Small Savings Scheme has worked successfully in this District. The following table shows the gross and net collections under the different schemes which are in operation under the auspices of the National Savings Organisation.

NATIONAL SAVINGS COLLECTION (1959-64)

(Figure in thousands of Rs)

Name of security	1960-61	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Total	3318	365	13400	6352	9697
Postal					
Certificates	534	178	1166	681	899
T.S.D.Cs.					
D.D.Cs.	—	—	5	5	(-)50
15 Year					
A.Cs.	—	—	(-) 1	(-) 2	(-) 4
P.O.S.B	2764	167	1378	5311	8531
C.T.D	20	20	109	100	216
PBs/P.P.Bs	—	—	256	256	51

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

The erstwhile Travancore State had a separate coinage of its own, the denominations being known as *Sirkar Chukram* and *cash*. These coins were in circulation in the Alleppey District also. After the integration of the princely States of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 they were gradually withdrawn from circulation. The most important currency reform introduced in the District in recent times is the decimal system of coinage which came into force in April 1959. The reform has evoked favourable response from all sections of the public both in urban and rural areas.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The import and export trade of Alleppey is carried on through sea, railway, waterways and roads. The main imports into Alleppey Port are foodgrains, like rice, pulses, flour, salt, oil seeds, particularly copra and raw tobacco. In 1965-66 a total quantity of 6,373 metric tons of rice from Burma valued at Rs. 88,62,773 was imported in this port. The chief commodities exported are coir and coir products (mats, rugs, carpets, rope yarn, etc.), dyeing and tanning substances, ginger, turmeric, fish and fish prawns, cashew kernels, coconut oil, jute goods, ponnac, tapioca powder, pulses, betelnuts, cardamom, ginger pepper, textiles and other articles of merchandise. Among the exports mentioned above the most important items are coir and coir products and spices. They are exported mainly to foreign countries such as West Germany, Holland, United Kingdom, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Poland, United States, etc. Among the spices pepper gets the place of honour. In 1965-66 336,025 kg. of coir mattings, rugs and carpets, 386,5178 kg. of coir mats and 3,532,326 kgs. of pepper were exported from the port of Alleppey to the different countries. A statement of imports and exports at the Port of Alleppey for the years 1953-54 to 1965-66 is given in Tables A and B of Appendix II.

A small volume of import and export trade of the District is carried on through the railways. The statistics of outward and inward goods traffic at the five Railway Stations of the District viz. Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Cherinad, Chengannur and Tiruvalla for the year ending March 31, 1963 are given below.

[The Statement of the volume of Goods Traffic in principal commodities carried during the year ending March 31, 1963 and the Revenue derived therefrom.]

Name of Stations	Outwards		Inwards	
	(Local and Foreign)		(Local and Foreign)	
	Quintals	Revenue Rs.	Quintals	Revenue Rs.
Kayamkulam	21,589	81,198	82,346	2,13,496
Mavelikara	1,869	4,385	10,610	14,229
Cherianad	32	154	Nil	Nil
Chengannur	1,160	3,474	18,929	54,578
Tiruvalla	4,163	15,355	14,114	33,556

The most important of the commodities handled in outward goods traffic are grains and pulses, metal and manganese, oils and unwrought goods while those handled in inward traffic are cotton textiles, grains and pulses, metal and manganese, provisions, oils and oil seeds, spices and sugar-

In view of the wide net work of waterways and canals in this District a very large volume of trade is carried on by the waterways. A statement of the traffic carried by the waterways from each of the principal landing places of Shertallai, Chengannur, K. yamkulam, Alleppey, Tiruvalla and Pullikeezhu is given at Appendix III. It may be noted that the most import commodities transported along the waterways are coconut and its products, coir and allied products, fish and fish prawns, cashew nuts, spices like ginger and pepper, timber and fire wood, sugar cane and sugar, tapioca, rubber, tiles, bricks and clay. It may be noted that the rates by the waterways are the cheapest, though it takes a much longer time for the goods to reach their destination.

Above all, a good part of the trade is carried on through road. The National Highway-47 runs through this District almost parallel to the sea coast. However, in view of the weak bridges like the Shertallai Bridge over which weight restriction has been imposed a good portion of the trade that would have otherwise taken place along the roads of the District is diverted to safer routes outside the District boundary. At the same time there is heavy road traffic between Alleppey and Cochin.

An analysis of the over-all traffic carried on from the principal landing places referred to earlier through water, road and railways is given at Appendix IV.

It may be seen that the volume of trade through waterways is very much in excess of that by road or railways.

REGULATED MARKETS

There are no regulated markets in this District

WHOLESALE TRADE CENTRES

The Alleppey market is the most important wholesale trade centre in this District. It is located within the Alleppey Municipal area and is both a secondary and terminal market. The important agricultural commodities handled here are Rice, Copra, Coconut oil, Oil Cake, Coir Yarn, Black Paper, Ginger, Ripe Arecanuts, and *Kottappakku*. It serves as an exporting centre for oil, oil cake, coir

pepper, ginger and arecanuts. Go-down facilities are available in this market. The importance of Alleppey as a marketing centre for rice has dwindled in recent years owing to the development of neighbouring markets like Kayamkulam and Changanacherri. The daily arrival of rice in the Alleppey market averages about 1,000 bags in addition to the local punja rice. Rice is also imported from Erode and Tanjore in Madras State, from rice producing centre in Andhra Pradesh, from Palghat (via. Cochin) and from Quilon. The big marketing period of rice in Alleppey is from February to May. There are about 15 wholesale markets and 20 retail dealers. Wholesale transactions of rice mostly take place through brokers. The market is not connected by rail. The volume of transactions is low when compared to Cochin and Quilon.

Alleppey is the major exporting centre for coconut oil produced in the State. The forward market functioning in Alleppey controls the transactions and price of these commodity in the forward delivery. The oil Millers sell their stocks of oil to the exporters through oil brokers. The turn-over depends on the availability of copra and demand for oil. Copra is brought into the market from neighbouring places like Vaikom, Ambalapuzha, Punnappra, Kanjikuzhi and Shertallai. It is also imported from Ceylon.

Alleppey is a major transacting centre for oil cake which is a by-product in the manufacture of coconut oil. Oil cake is exported to outside markets like Mangalore, Tenali, Guntur, Kathiawar and Vijayawada. This is done by commission agents.

Copra which is utilised for the production of coconut oil is yet an important commodity transacted in the Alleppey market. Two varieties of copra are available in the market, viz, smoked and sun-dried. Each of the varieties is sorted into four grades and only then marketing is done. The four sorting grades are (1) Rai (2) Rai Moong (3) Dala and (4) Vettumen. Sorting is done by the millers according to the size and the colour of the commodity. Copra after grading is exported to outside markets like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, etc. The other sorts are absorbed by the millers. The peak marketing period of copra is from February to April.

Alleppey is an important assembling and exporting centre for coir yarn. The important coir varieties that come to the market are (1) Anjengo (2) Superior Anjengo (Mangadam) (3) Arothari (4) Alappadan (5) Ashtamudi and (6) Vaikom. Anjengo is the most important commercial variety ruling the Alleppey market. Grading of coir yarn is done before it is marketed. Grading is based

on the twist of the yarn as well as its colour and thickness. Coir yarn is brought to the market in boats. The major marketing transactions are done through the Alleppey Central Coir marketing Society and through other Commission Agents. Coir yarn, mats and mattings are exported to foreign ports like Penang, Hamburg, Genoa etc. and to Indian ports like Bombay and Calcutta.

Alleppey market claims to be the biggest exporting centre for black pepper. There are about 20 exporters and 30 Commission Agents engaged in this trade. All transactions are routed through brokers. Two varieties of pepper are available in the market viz. Pepper Palai and Pepper Thekkan. The Palai Pepper is superior to Thekkan in quality, colour and shape. Both ungarbled and garbled pepper are exported.

Alleppey is an important assembling centre for arecanuts. Ripe arecanuts come to the market from outside markets at Nedumangad Palode, Venjaramudu, Kilimanur and other parts of Trivandrum District and from Kuthattukulam in Ernakulam District. Two different varieties arrive in this market viz. Thekkan and Vadakkan. The peak marketing period for the Thekkan nuts is June to February and for Vadakkan nuts March to September. Arrivals of Vadakkan nuts are from Trichur, Ernakulam and Kasaragod. Karunagapalli, Oachira and Changanacherry markets also contribute a fairly large proportion of nuts to the Alleppey market. The ripe nuts are packed in gunny bags of three thousand to four thousand nuts in each before they are sent to outside markets.

Tapioca, both raw and dried, is also transacted in the Alleppey market. It comes from places like Ranni, Kozhencherri, Pathanamthitta, Mavelikara, Vadasserikara, etc. Raw tapioca is being transported to Alleppey by boats of 8 to 12 candy capacity. There are about four commission agents engaged in tapioca transactions in the Alleppey market. The peak marketing period for raw tapioca is from June to December and for dried tapioca from February to May.

Palm gur is another commodity transacted in Alleppey market. It arrives from Quilon and is marketed by retail dealers.

RETAIL TRADE

Apart from the wholesale trade centres referred to above there hundreds of retail shops which lay scattered over all parts of the District. It should be noted that there are no rigid rules regarding wholesale and retail trade as some of the wholesale dealers also carry on retail business.

According to information supplied by the Sales Tax and Agricultural Income Tax Department there were 6,844 dealers in this District in 1965. The number of dealers engaged in each trade according to the broad classification adopted for purposes of Sales Tax assessment is given below.

Category	No. of dealers
Total	6,844
Foodstuffs and hotels	599
Clothes and other consumer goods	1,611
Building articles	96
Transport and Vehicle goods	29
Machinery and capital goods	20
Fuel and power	16
Industrial commodities	166
Miscellaneous	4,307

A commodity-wise statement of the number of dealers assessed and the volume of business turn-over in each Sales Tax Circle of the District for the year 1963-64 is given at Appendix V

An interesting feature of the retail trade of the District is the role of the hawkers or itinerant merchants who move about in small country boats and sell different items in the Kuttanad area. The following account given by the authors of the *Land Reclamation in Kerala* may be read with interest in this connection.¹ "The distributive trade of Kuttanad is carried on by itinerant merchants, both men and women, moving about in small country canoes. A fairly high degree of specialisation has developed among these merchants. The fish-mongers for example collect fish from the sea coast and speed about in the water courses in their narrow canoes making seemingly strange sounds to their customers flanked on either side of their itinerary. But the technique of communication has been so perfected that women folk on either bank would be able to identify the type of fish on sale from the sounds produced. There used to be peddlers who brought vegetables, curd and buttermilk from such far off places like Tiruvalla, Chengannur, and Kozhencherry in their country boats. Merchants who carried gur or raw sugar from the sugar cane growing areas of the Midlands were also a familiar sight in Kuttanad until the advent of sugar factories. There is another group of traders whose boats are virtually floating

¹ V. R. Pillai and P. G. K. Panikkar, *Land Reclamation in Kerala*, pp. 42-43

miniature department stores displaying all kinds of knickknacks. Most of these venders carry on a two way traffic: they not only sell their wares, they also buy various goods from their customers such as paddy, coconuts, eggs, fowls, and old brass and copper vessels to be disposed of at other centres. During the harvest season a large number of petty trading establishments spring up like mushrooms in temporary ramshackles and shacks at all conceivable points throughout Kuttanad. These small traders do some trading of paddy especially by buying up the paddy received by the agricultural workers as wages. They also cater to the needs of the large floating population of the area. A unique feature of this country scene is the itinerant bookseller who recites as he rows his way along the meandering waters; may be a devotional piece from Hindu Mythology, a romantic passage from a tragedy of unrequited love, a stirring stanza from revolutionary literature, a sensational news item from the daily newspaper according to the taste of the listening folk of which he is an unerring judge."

RURAL MARKETING CENTRES

The District has its marketing centres spread over the rural areas of the District. According to the Administration Report of the Panchayats Department (1964-65) there were 74 public markets and 95 private markets in the Panchayat areas of the District. The most important of the marketing centres in each Taluk may be mentioned here. Among the markets in Shertallai Taluk may be mentioned Ponnammveli Market in Vayalar village, the Kutiatodu Market and the Muhamma Market. All these are daily markets. However, the most important marketing centre in Shertallai Taluk is the Mattom daily bazar in the Municipal town of Shertallai. In Mavelikara Taluk the most important market is the Pandalam Kurumthottayam market which is essentially a vegetable market. The Sastampuram, Kulanadu and Kollakadavu markets in Chennanur Taluk also deserve mention. All these are daily markets where fish, vegetables, etc., are transacted. The Ramapuram Market in Tiruvalla town which is held every Tuesday and Friday is the oldest in Tiruvalla Taluk. It is a fish and vegetable market. The Mallapalli Sri Krishna Vilasam market is a monthly one where fish and vegetables are sold. It is also a special centre for marketing pepper on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Puramattom Public Market dealing in fish and vegetables is held on Mondays and Fridays. The most important markets in Kuttanad are the Edathua and

Mankombu markets. The former is held on Mondays and Thursdays and the latter on Tuesdays and Fridays. They deal in fish, vegetables and tapioca.

A peculiarity of this District is that there are a number of cattle markets. A cattle market is held at Mannar, half a mile south of Haripad (Karthikapally Taluk) on the 12th, 18th and 28th of every Malayalam month. In Mavelikara Taluk there are cattle markets at Kuramtottayam (Pantalam), Pulakadavu, Kannattumodi and Kurekuzhi. A cattle market is held at Sastampuram (Chengannur Taluk) on every 5th day of the Malayalam month. A fortnightly cattle market is held at Tirumala (Tiruvalla Taluk) on the 12th and 29th days of the English month. At Parumala (Tiruvalla Taluk) is held an annual cattle fair on the 1st four days of Edavam (May-June). In addition a monthly market is held here on 1st and 2nd days of every Malayalam month. There is also another cattle market at Vennikulam in this Taluk which is held on the 19th day of every Malayalam month.

CO OPERATION IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

The early history of the Co-operative movement has already been traced in an earlier section of this Chapter. As already noted the oldest Co-operative society set up in this District is the Ramapuram Service Co-operative Society Ltd., No. 111 in Karthikapally Taluk. Established about 1915 it meets not only the credit needs of the agriculturists but also undertakes the distribution of food-grains to its members under the rationing scheme.

In fact, Co-operation plays an important part in the trade of the District. In 1961 there were 56 Non-Credit Co-operative Societies engaged in different activities such as marketing, milk supply, farming, etc. In 1964 their number had gone up to 107. A comparative statement giving such particulars as the number of members, paid-up share capital, working capital, etc., of these societies in 1961 and 1964 is given below.

Type of Society	No. of societies		No. of members		Paid up share capital		Working capital	
	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964
	(Rupees in lakhs)							
Marketing Societies	5	6	695	769	0.43	1.88	0.68	3.09
Consumer Stores	18	17	2593	4612	0.43	2.27	1.07	3.55

Joint Farming

Societies	15	40	2013	2965	0.43	1.59	1.26	3.63
Poultry Societies	3	26	286	855	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.42
Milk Supplies								
Societies	9	12	943	1056	0.16	0.23	0.26	0.33
Housing Societies	6	6	252	210	0.2	0.24	0.77	1.16

Brief accounts of some of the leading co-operative societies in the District are also given here-

**ALLEPPEY TOWN CONSUMERS WHOLESALE CO-OPERATIVE
STORES A-103**

The Alleppey Town Consumers Wholesale Co-operative Stores A-103 was established in August 15, 1963 under the centrally sponsored scheme of organising District Wholesale Stores for holding the price line of consumer goods. By the end of the year 1964, the Stores had collected a share capital of Rs. 1.76 lakh including the Government contribution of Rs. 85,385 and enlisted 4,388 members. Being a unitary type of Stores, this institution undertakes the retail distribution of consumer articles also in the Alleppey Municipal town through its net-work of 35 branches, besides its wholesale business. The business turn-over of the institution amount to nearly Rs. 10 lakhs during the year 1963-64.

KARTHIKAPALLY TALUK MARKETING SOCIETY A. 147

The Co-operative movement in this District was by and large credit-based till recently and very little was done in the sphere of marketing. An attempt is now being made for the linking of credit with marketing by organising marketing societies in different parts of the District. The first of this kind was established at Shertallai followed by another at Mavelikara, a third at Karthikapally and a fourth at Kuttanad. Of the four, the Karthikapally Marketing Society A-147 has a share capital of Rs. 70075 subscribed by its 33 Primary Credit Society members and the Government. After the construction of a go-down and the erection of an Oil Mill, the society is now planning to undertake processing of coconuts.

TIRAVUR JOINT FARMING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY NO. 2010

This is one of the Co-operative Farming Societies working in the District. The society undertakes cultivation on a contiguous plot of 60 acres of paddy lands in Tiravur Village. Of the 300 members of the society 120 are agricultural labourers. The working

capital is Rs. 20,895 comprising of share capital of Rs. 4,805 reserve and other funds, Rs. 2,341 and borrowing of Rs. 13,750 including Rs. 7,750 from the Government. Improved agricultural techniques such as tractor ploughing, seed treatment, plant protection and transplantation of seedlings are adopted by the society.

The Alleppey Rickshaw Thozhilali Co-operative Society Ltd.,
A-148

The Alleppey Rickshaw Thozhilali Co-operative Society Ltd., A-148 is the only one of its kind established in 1952 with headquarters at Alleppey town and working under the Five Year Plan Schemes. It has a paid-up share capital of Rs. 2,500 subscribed by its 51 members mostly drawn from among Rickshaw-pullers. The Society has purchased 34 rickshaws with the help of a loan of Rs. 20,000 granted by the Government. These vehicles are run by the member labourers who pay hire charges to the Society on a moderate rate.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS AND STATE TRADING

Fair price shops have been set up in all parts of the District for the sale of rice and wheat to the common people at controlled prices. Kerala State is highly deficit in food grains and hence the fair price shops were set up by the Government in 1956 to arrest the rise in the price of rice and wheat in the open market and help the common man.

A statement showing the number of Retail and Whole Sale Fair price Shops in each of the Taluk 1965-66 is given below.

Taluk	Total	No. of Fair Price Shops/ Wholesale/Retail.	
		52	1,681
Sherattai		9	292
Chengannur		5	197
Kuttanad		6	163
Mavelikara		7	236
Alleppey		6	229
Tiruvaila		6	195
Karchisapally		13	264

The allotment of rice and wheat for the District is made by the Board of Revenue. The Taluk Supply Officers allot the entire quota of rice and wheat among the wholesalers in the Taluk. The retailers

In each Taluk are permanently attached to the wholesalers according to the choice indicated by the farmer. The quota allotted to the wholesalers is given to them from the Depots of the Food Corporation at Alleppey and Cochin and supplies are made by them to the retailers as per the directions of the Taluk Supply Officers. The food grains are then distributed to the ration card-holders who have registered their cards with the retail shops.

MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATIONS

As Alleppey is an important commercial centre there are a number of merchants' associations functioning here. The most important of them are the following:-

- 1 The Travancore Coir Mats and Matting Manufacturers' Association, Alleppey,
- 2 The Travancore Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey.
- 3 The Alleppey Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey,
- 4 The Alleppey Oil Millers and Merchants' Association, Alleppey,
- 5 The Travancore Oil Millers Association, Alleppey,
- 6 The Alleppey Produce Merchants' Association, Alleppey,
- 7 Alleppey Piece Goods Merchants' Association, Alleppey,
- 8 Alleppey District Hotel and Tea Shop Owners' Association, Alleppey,
- 9 The Alleppey Hotel and Tea Shop Owners' Association, Alleppey,
- 10 The Ambalapuzha Taluk Abkari Contractors' Association, Alleppey,
- 11 Tiru-Cochi Coir Yarn Merchants' Association, Alleppey,
- 12 Alleppey District Small Scale Coir Manufacturing Association, Alleppey,
- 13 Ambalapuzha Shertallai Coir Makers' and Designers' Association, Mannancherry,
- 14 Merchants' Association, Edathua,
- 15 The Fair Price Retail Merchants' Association, Alleppey,
- 16 The Associated Cottage Industries & Shippers Union Ltd., Shertallai,
- 17 Kerala Coir Mats Manufacturers' Association, Shertallai,
- 18 The Muhamma Small Scale Coir Industries Association, Muhamma

- 19 Shertallai Taluk Hotel and Tea Shop Owners' Association, Shertallai,
- 20 Shertallai Taluk Abkari Contractors' Association Shertallai,
- 21 Kayamkulam Merchants' Association, Kayamkulam.
- 22 Kuttanad Taluk Abkari Contractors' Association, Takazhi and
- 23 Merchants' Association, Tiruvalla.

Brief accounts of some of the Associations are given below.

TRAVANCORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Travancore Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey established in 1929, is an association registered under the Travancore Companies Act by virtue of a Licence issued by the erstwhile Travancore Government. It was inaugurated by the late Mr. M. E. Watts, then Dewan of Travancore. The objects for which the Chamber was established are similar to those of other Chambers of Commerce, viz., promotion and protection of trade, commerce, agriculture and industry. The scope of its activities is limited to Kerala State. The Chamber publishes useful statistical information, conducts surveys, issues certificates of origin, weights and measures of cargo, etc. Provision is made in its rules for arbitration. There is also machinery for the examination and certification of quality of goods for export. The Chamber also renders assistance to those who seek to establish trade connections with the State. It has also established friendly contacts with similar institutions abroad with a view to gathering information useful to the business community in the State and widening its activities in the interest of the country as a whole. The Chamber has in its membership various interests such as coir mats and matting manufacture, planting spices, oil milling, mines and minerals, paper manufacture, sugar, titanium, banking, engineering, etc. The strength of its membership is now 52. The Chamber is in touch with most of the Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations in the State as well as with such other bodies in India. The Association of Planters of Kerala, Kottayam, is a member of this Chamber. This Chamber is affiliated to the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, Calcutta. The Chamber publishes its Annual Report, Monthly Export Steamer Manifesto relating to the Alleppey Port and Weekly Prices Current,

TRAVANCORE COIR MATS AND MATTINGS MANUFACTURER'S

ASSOCIATION

The Travancore Coir Mats and Mattings Manufacturer's Association was registered under the Travancore Companies Act of 1114 (1938-39) under license issued by the Travancore Government. It was formally inaugurated in April 1940. During its existence of a quarter of century the Association has done a great deal for the promotion of the coir industry. During the period of the Second World War it executed several orders for Coir goods placed by the Government of India. This Association was the first in the field to constitute, in co-operation with labour unions, a body called "The Industrial Relation Committee" for the whole of the Coir Industry—the Yarn sector and the Manufacturer sector—and composed of representatives of labour and employers with an official of State Labour Department as Observer. It has a proud record of having, on a voluntary basis, settled by mutual discussion and co-operation, several disputes in this industry. In 1957 the Kerala Government constituted Industrial Relations Councils on an industry-wise basis and the coir Industrial Relations Council (C. I. R. C.) is now the official forum where issues like annual bonus, standardisation or wages etc. are discussed and settled. Side by side with the C.I.R.C. the Industrial Relation Committees of the Association also continues to settle disputes in individual factories. This Association also carried out pre-shipment inspection of coir goods if required by the Trade. The President of the Association besides other members has been nominated by the Kerala Government as a member of (1) The Coir Industrial Relations Council, (2) The National Employment Exchange Committee, and (3) The Local Committee of the Employee/State Insurance. One of the Committee members is on the Regional Board of the Employees State Insurance. Some members of this Association have been nominated by the Government of India as members of the Coir Board. Its representatives are invited to participate in the meetings of the Central Export Promotion Advisory Committee. The Association participates in Fairs and Exhibitions in foreign countries and sends delegations to Overseas territories to augment existing business connections and explore new markets.

THE KERALA COIR PRODUCERS' 'DEALERS' ASSOCIATION, ALLEPPEY

This association was formed in 1939 and later it was registered under the Trade Unions Act, as No. 2 of 1115 (1940). The primary object of the Association is to work for the progress of the Coir

Industry and the welfare of the people engaged in its various branches. In 1964-65 it had a membership of more than 2,000 of which 600 are life members. The Central and State Governments have recognised this Association as the only representative body to uphold the cause of the coir industry and to look after the interests of the Primary Coir Yarn Producers and Dealers in the District. Both the Governments consult this Association in matters of importance relating to the coir industry and also invite its representatives to all the Conferences held at the instance of the Central and State Governments to discuss the problems of the Coir Industry. The Association worked strenuously from 1949 for the organisation of the Coir Co-operative and from 1954 for the formation of the Coir Board. It was at the instance of the Association that the State Government exempted Coir and Coir goods from Sales tax for a period of 4½ years (i.e., from 1st April 1952 to 20th October 1956) and also introduced minimum wages in the Coir Industry.

THE ALLEPPEY OIL MILLERS' ASSOCIATION

The Alleppey Oil Millers' & Merchants' Association, started functioning as an unregistered body in June 1948 and was registered in November 1951 under the Indian Companies Act, 1913 as a non profit making Association under Section 26 of the Companies Act. The rules of the Association provided for membership of all bonafied businessmen in Copra, Coconut oil, coconut oil-cake, coconuts and other commodities, having a place of business in Alleppey. The Association has provided for a system of registered brokers for negotiation of the business of its members. It is the earliest organisation of its kind in the Indian Union which has been granted permanent recognition by the Forward Markets Commission to regulate future trading in Coconut oil under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act (1952). Its Chairman and members serve on several important committees set up by the Central and State Governments. The members of the Association are also some of the biggest exporters of Pepper and Coconut oil Cake. In December 1964 it was granted recognition by the Government of India, as per the recommendation of the Forward Market Commission to permit forward trading in Pepper also.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A detailed statement of the old units of weights and measures with their corresponding units in the metric system is given at Appendix VI. The adoption of the Metric system of Weights and Measures was formally introduced in Kerala with the passing of the Kerala Weights and Measures Enforcement Act (1958). The dates of

introduction of different units of weights and measures in the Alleppey District are given below.

1	Metric Weights	October	1 1959
2	Length Measures	April	1,1962
3	Capacity Measures	June	1,1962
4	Units of Area and Volume	November	1,1962

There was strong opposition from the trading public to the introduction of the metric system in the initial stages. It stemmed from their age-long acquaintance with the old units and their sentimental attachment towards them. As a result of effective publicity and persuasion this initial opposition was overcome. The trading as well as the general public have now come to feel that the metric units are more convenient in the daily transactions than the old ones. There is a District Inspector of Weights and Measures with headquarters at Alleppey to enforce the provisions of the Weights and Measures Enforcement Act.

APPENDIX 1

Banks and their Branches, Sub-Offices as on December 31, 1961

1. Alleppey

Alleppey District Co-operative Bank (H O.)
 Bank of Madras (B)
 Canara Bank (2 B)
 Central Bank of India (B)
 Federal Bank (B)
 Indian Bank (B)
 Indian Overseas Bank (B)
 Josna Bank (B)
 Marthandam Commercial Bank (B)
 Nedungadi Bank (B)
 South Indian Bank (B)
 State Bank of India (B)
 State Bank of Travancore (B)
 Syndicate Bank (B)
 Union Bank of India (B)

2. Ambalapuzha

State Bank of Travancore (B)

3. **Champakulam**
Champakulam Catholic Bank (R. O.)
State Bank of Travancore (B)
4. **Chengannur**
Alleppey District Co-operative Bank (B)
Marthandam commercial Bank (B)
State Bank of Travancor (B)
5. **Edathua**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
6. **Eraviperur**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
7. **Haripad**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
8. **Kayamkulam**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
Syndicate Bank (B)
9. **Kumbanad**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
10. **Mallapalli**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
11. **Mannar**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
12. **Mavelikara**
State Bank of Travancore (B)
13. **Pulincunnu**
Canara Bank (B)
South Indian Bank (B)
14. **Shertallai**
Alleppey District Co-operative Bank (B)
Dhanalakshmi Bank (B)
Indian Insurance & Banking Corporation (B)
Lord Krishna Bank (B)
State Bank of Travancore (B)
15. **Tiruvalla**
Indian Overseas Bank (B)
Marthandam Commercial Bank (B)
State Bank of Travancore (B)
16. **Vennikulam**
State Bank of Travancore (B)

APPENDIX III

Traffic carried by the Waterways from each of the Principal landing places in the District

	Centre	Commodity	Tons
Shertallai	North Bound	Total	27,000
	Cochin	Coconut & its products	18,000
		Coir & allied products	9,000
Alleppey	South Bound	Total	11,300
	Alleppey	Coconut & its products	12,000
		Coir & allied products	12,000
Alleppey	Quilon	Cashewnuts	1,100
	North Bound	Total	59,580
	Kottayam	Coconut & its products	4,000
		Fish & Prawns	1,500
		Coir & allied products	4,200
	Cochin	Coconut & its products	1,720
		Coir & allied products	48,000
		Pepper	160
	South Bound	Total	39,800
	Chengannur	Coconut & its products	500
		Provisions	2,000
		Fish & Prawns	1200
		Coir & allied products	2,800
	Mavelikara	Coconut & its products	1,000
		Provisions	2,500
		Coir & allied products	1,400
	Kayamkulam	Provisions	6,000
		Coir & allied products	4,000

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Tiruvalla	Quilon	Provisions	2,000
		Coir & allied products	6,000
		Cashewnuts	1,000
	Trivandrum	Provisions	2,400
		Coir & allied products	7,000
	North Bound		
		Total	9,500
	Alleppey	Ginger	860
		Pepper	500
		Timber & Firewood	5,060
Pulikeezhu	Cochin	Ginger	1,200
		Pepper	2,000
	South Bound		
		Total	80,000
	Pulikeezhu	Sugar cane	80,000
	North Bound		
		Total	6,250
	Alleppey	Sugar	3,000
	Cochin	Sugar	3,250
	South Bound		
Chengannur		Total	6,250
	Quilon	Sugar	3,100
	Trivandrum	Sugar	3,150
	North Bound		
		Total	42,060
	Pulikeezhu	Sugarcane	30,000
		Others	4,000
	Alleppey	Rubber	60
		Others	5,000
	Cochin	Rubber	800
		Ginger	100
		Pepper	100
		Others	2,000

South Bound		
	Total	10,000
Kayamkulam	Timber	2,000
Qullon	Timber	8,000
Kayamkulam. North Bound		
	Total	19,720
Changanacherry	Coconut & its products	230
	Fish & Prawns	450
Alleppey	Tapioca	5,000
	Coir & allied products	3,000
	Others	1,440
Cochin	Coconut & its products	6,160
	Rubber	2,000
	Pepper	1,500
South Bound		
	Total	10,650
Ithikara	Tiles, Bricks & Clay	2,500
	Firewood	1,600
Trivandrum	Cashewnuts	50
	Tiles, Bricks & Clay	6,050

APPENDIX IV

STATEMENT OF OVER ALL TRAFFIC CARRIED BY WATERWAYS FROM EACH OF THE PRINCIPAL LANDING PLACES IN ALLEPPEY DISTRICT

Name of the landing place	Taluk served	Total Commodity Tons	Local consum- ption Tons	Surplus available (4-5)	Transport waterways		Trans- ported by road	Trans- ported by rail	Total Columns 9 to 11
					South	North			
					Bound		Total		
Shertallai	Coconut	87946	46378	41568					
		82939	42513	40426					
		3023	3023	..					
		1142	..	1142					
		842	842	..					
Alleppey	Coconuts	122622	22881	99741					
		67857	21310	46547					
		6200	..	6200					
		447000	..	447000					
		1059	1059	..					
					39800	59589	99380	361	99J,41
	Other Agril : products	2806	512	2294					
		204930	59322	145608					

Tiruvalla	Tiruvalla	Coconut	63884	43711	20173 }				
	Tapioca		52689	15611	37087 }				
	Sugarcane		84000	..	84000 }	80000 · 9500	89500	56108	- 145608
	Cashewnut		1142	..	1142 }				
	Other Agri								
	crops		3215	..	3215 }				
	Sugar		12500	..	12500 }	6250	6250	12500	..
			120872	42448	78424				12500
	Pulikeezhu Tiruvalla								
	Chengannur	Coconuts	31738	28238	3500 }				
		Tapioca	26690	12090	14600 }				
		Sugarcane	54420	..	59420 }	10000	42060	52060	26000 364 78424
		Other Agri							
		products	3024	2120	904 }				
			174228	101028	73200				
	Kayamkulam	Coconut	115225	70802	44423 }				
	Karunagapalli	Coconut							
		Husk	23044	-	23044 }	31440	15720	51160	21988 52 73200
		Tapioca	28344	23344	5000 }				
		Plantation	5996	5996	.. }				
		Cashewnut	707	..	707 }				
		Others	912	886	26 }				

APPENDIX VI

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES—OLD AND NEW

Weight used in gold and silver trade

1 Paddy corn		= 0.001 oz. = 0.22 grams
4 Paddy corns	= 1 Kunni	= 0.008 oz. = 0.09 „
2 Kunnies	= 1 Manjadi	= 0.006 oz. = 0.19 „
2 Manjadies	= 1 Panavida	= 0.013 oz. = 0.38 „
10 Panavida	= 1 Kazhanchu	= 0.138 oz. = 3.76 „
21 Panavida	= 1 Sovereign	= 0.28 oz. = 7.9 „
81 Panavida	= 1 Rupee Weight	= 0.412 oz. = 11.67 „

Weights used in trade of ordinary commodities?

1 Kazhanchu		= 2.1 dram = 9.78 grams
8 Kazhanchu	= 1 Thola	= 6.4 drams = 11.94 „
40 Tholas	= 1 Rathal	= 1 pound = 453.6 „
80 Rathals	= 1 Mannu	= 80 pounds = 13,608 „
20 Mannu	= 1 Kandy	= 600 pounds = 272.16 „

Weights used in trade of medicinal herbs and medicinal products

1 Panavida		= 0.27 drams = 0.472 grams
10 Panavida	= 1 Kazhanchu	= 2.67 drams = 4.725 „
12 Kazhanchu	= 1 Palam	= 2 oz. = 56.7 „
8 Palams	= 1 Rathal	= 1 pound = 453.6 „

Liquid Measures

1 Thudam		= 2.844 oz. = 80.77 Milli litre
16 Thudams	= 1 Edangaly	= 45.5 oz. = 1292.8 „
10 Edangaly	= 1 Para	= 455 oz. = 12,928 litres
12 Edangaly	= 1 Chothana	= 546 oz. = 15.51 „

Dry Capacity Measures

1 Azhaku		= 2.5 c. inches = 0.97 c.cm
2 Azhaku	= 1 Uri	= 5 c. inches = 81.98 „
2 Uzhakku	= 1 Uri	= 10 „ = 168.87 „
2 Uri	= 1 Nazhi	= 20 „ = 327.74 „
4 Nazhi	= 1 Edangaly	= 80 „ = 1310.96 „
10 Edangaly	= 1 Para	= 800 „ = 13109.65 „
1 Nellida		= 9.158 inches = 0.4 cm
8 Nellida	= 1 Angulam	= 1.25 „ = 3.175 „
24 Angulam	= 1 Kole	= 80 „ = 76.2 „
4 Koles	= 1 Dandu	= 120 „ = 804.8 cm

Measurement used in Textile trade

1 Chann		= 9 inches = 22.86 cm
2 Channs	= 1 Cubit	= 18 „ = 45.72 „
2 Cubits	= 1 Yard	= 86 „ = 91.44 „

Units for measurement of lands

1 link		= 7.92 inches = 20.117 cm.
100 links	= chain	= 66 feet = 2011.7 cm.

Source: Inspectorate of Weights and Measures

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CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Much of the early trade and traffic of the Alleppey District was carried on by means of waterways as the area had almost an uninterrupted line of natural communications in its extensive river and backwater systems. Nevertheless, the *Unnunilisanthesam*, the famous Malayalam poem written by an anonymous author in the 14th century, refers to the existence of a highway from Trivandrum to Kaduthuruthi that passed through this District touching such places as Kayamkulam, Tekke mattom, Tattarambalam, Kandiur, Chennihala, Eramattura, Kuratti, Panayanar Kavu, Kadapra, Alenthuruthu and Tiruvalla. But it was during the reign of Marthanda Varma (1729-1758) that good roads were first laid in Travancore. This ruler also gave attention to the improvement of water communication. The canal which connects the backwaters of Quilon and Kayamkulam through Chavara and Panmana and the one by which Karthikapally river is joined with the Kayamkulam lake were constructed during his reign. Lts. Ward and Corner in their *Memoirs of the Survey of Travancore and Cochin* describes the following routes which traversed the District in the beginning of the 19th century.

1) Route from Quilon to Cochin, via, Alleppey and Shertallai in the interior (length 92 miles)

From Quilon the road sandy the country close with trees and gardens to the Iywickabar, a small stripe of paddy intervening, 1 mile south of it is ferried across, then along the beach, then west a wooden bridge over a channel of the backwater to Shauvurra, the road over heavy sand. From Shauvurra to Kurnagapully close by topes and gardens, avenue of punnay trees, little cultivation cross an arm of the backwater over a wooden bridge at Cunneat, a ferry where travellers from the interior take load and proceed by water, the road good. From Kurnagapully to Kayenkulam the country closed with topes besides the intervention of the little paddy cultivation; Woocheria tode crossed over a bridge and the road good but sandy. From Kayenkulam the country closed by cocoanut topes and gardens little cultivation to Kartigapully; Pootun tode crossed a mile north of it on a bridge; the road good. From Kartigapully to Poracad the country open with extensive paddy cultivation under water lands. cross Thotapully bridge over the backwater, the road

indifferent on an elevated mount several bridge, thence through heavy sand along the coast.

From Porecad to Alleppey the road runs over heavy sand near the coast, scattered with brushwood. From Alleppey to Sharetalla the country on either hand close with topes and gardens low jungle and little cultivation on it; the road sandy with an avenue of Cashoo trees. From Sharetallay to Urroor topes and gardens on both sides, and alternately open, with little cultivation, road good but sandy, and from Urroor to Cochin, cross an arm of the back-water to Yeddacoochy 600 yds. wide. several nullahs crossed and much cultivation; the road tolerable throughout. The road on this route in general good, indifferent for troops moving with heavy artillery & Corps or detachment from Quilon on passing the lywica bar proceed along the coast to Cochin.

2) Route from Panthalam to Pathanapuram (length 16½ miles)

This route is across wood and much frequented by merchants with laden cattle, from Pantalam it runs over open slopes and crosses some cultivated valleys to Yaluncolum, it then enters a forest and is confined in a valley, passes some fields to Kullinjoor through forest, again crosses some steep nullahs and slopes of paddy to Pattanapuram.

3) Route from Krishnapuram to Changanacherry, via., Mavelikara and Tiruvalla (length 25 miles)

The road will admit of laden bullocks and passes through a populous tract, crosses the Achencoil, Pumbay and to Chungana cherry is intersected by numerous channels crossed on temporary wooden bridges extensive spaces of wet cultivation tending to make the road almost impassable during the rains.

4) Route from Kartikapalli to Achancoil pass via., Mavelikara Pantalam and Konniyur (length 53½ miles).

The road is in general passable for laden cattle, is pretty even to Pantalam and also to Koneyur, from whence to the top of the pass it runs almost on the right bank of the Achankoll river in forest, crossed by no less than 26 mountain streams within a space of 20 miles which are crossed by forest passengers on the trunks of trees and the cattle during the rains made to swim them.

In addition to the above major roads, there were numerous foot paths and bridle paths in almost all parts of the District and they were intersected by several unbridged streams and channels.

Consequently, through communication and wheeled traffic were extremely difficult. During the Dewanship of Sir T. Madhava Rao (1858-72) a regular Department of Public Works was organised in Travancore and systematic efforts were made in the direction of opening and improving communications. Good progress was made in road construction in the course of the next few decades. Early in this century Alleppey town alone had 18½ miles of good roads. A net work of canals ran through the town and gave it direct access to the Vembanad lake which on its eastern fringes is only about 3 miles away from the town of Kottayam.

There has been brisk activity in the field of road construction and development of communication since the dawn of Independence. The most important road constructed in this District during this period is the Alleppey Changanasseri road (24 Kms or 15 miles) which passes through the Kuttanad Taluk which is the 'Granary of the State.' The work on this road was taken up in 1951 and it was opened to traffic in 1957. The Ambalapuzha Edathua Road (9 miles) is another important highway that is in the process of construction. When completed it will connect Ambala puzha in N. H. 47 with Tiruvalia in M. C. Road.

MODERN HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

The Alleppey District is now covered by a wide net-work of highways and roads. In 1965-66 the total mileage of all kinds of roads under the Public Works Department came to 949 miles 3 furlongs and 81 ft. The roads are of four types. 1) Concrete 2) Bituminous. 3) Waterbound Macadam and 4) Lower Type. The total mileage under each category is given below:-

	M.	F.	Ft.
Total	949	3	81
1 Concrete Roads	10	0	0
2 Bituminous	175	3	247
3 Waterbound macadam (metalled)	321	5	541
4 Lower Type (gravelled and metalled surface)	442	1	613

In addition to the National Highway 47 which runs partly through this District, there are 8 Provincial Highways, 86 District Roads, 218 Village Roads, 55 Town Roads and 1 Maramath Road. The total mileage under each of the above categories is given below:-

	M.	F.	Ft.
Total	949	3	81
I National Highways 47	59	6	0
II Provincial Highways	107	3	0
III District Roads	323	4	31
IV Village Roads	411	6	524
V Town Roads	46	4	651
VI Maramathu Roads		2	225

A classified list of roads with details of mileage is given at Appendix I of this Chapter. It may also be mentioned that the Panchayats of the District had under them a total road mileage of 1,092 miles of which 65 miles were metalled and the rest unmetalled.

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCES

The total number of motor vehicles of different kinds registered in the Alleppey District as on March 31, 1965 is furnished below.

Number of vehicles registered as on 31st March 1965

Total	2,793
1 Goods Vehicles	390
2 Stage carriages	300
3 Tazi cabs	450
4 Cars	1,255
5 Motor cycles	358
6 Auto-rickshaws	8
7 Tractor-Trailer	25
8 Others	7

According to information collected in 1964 there were 74 motor boats or steam launches and 180 cabin boats licensed by the Panchayats in this District. The following table gives the total number of non-motor vehicles and conveyances including *Vallams* (country boats) registered by the Panchayats in the area under their jurisdiction in October 1964.

1 Number of Bicycles	12,528
2 „ Hand-carts	
Push carts	755
3 „ Rickshaws	12
4 „ Judkas	1
5 „ Bullock-carts	1,129
6 „ Vallams	3,446

The total number of non-motor vehicles including *vallams* registered in the municipal towns of Alleppey, Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Shertallai and Tiruvalla by the respective Municipalities in 1964 is given below:-

Statement of the number of non-motor vehicles registered in the Municipalities of Alleppey District 1964

	Alleppey	Mavelikara	Kayamkulam	Shertallai	Tiruvalla
No. of Bicycles	3,606	1,030	631	542	631
Hand-carts-					
Push Carts	262	77	65	98	50
Rickshaws(hand-drawn)	15	Nil	Nil	7	Nil
Bullock-carts	Nil	21	24	Nil	19
Vallams	Nil	26	Nil	176	8
Other types of non-motor vehicles	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cycle Rickshaws	378	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

In this connection we may refer to the findings of the Origin Destination Survey conducted by the Department of Statistics in Alleppey town in 1955-56. The survey revealed that 85 per cent of the trips were undertaken on foot. The following table gives full details of the number of trips expressed as a percentage of the total.

Mode of Travel	No. of trips
All	100
On foot	85
Bus	7
Cycle	3
Hand-cart	2
Taxi	Nil
Rickshaw	1
Boat	2
Train	Nil

An analysis of trips using conveyance gives the following percentages.

Conveyance	Percentage
All	100
Bus	42
Cycle	21

Hand-cart	15
Taxi	1
Rickshaw	7
Boat	12
Train	Nil

PUBLIC TRANSPORTS

PRIVATE MOTOR TRANSPORT

Private motor transport plays an important part in the transport system of the District. There is a Regional Transport officer at Alleppey having jurisdiction over the Alleppey District. He is the licensing and registering authority under the Travancore-Cochin Motor vehicles Act 1950. Under him is a Motor Vehicle Inspector who also functions as additional registering authority and licensing authority. In addition there are five Assistant Motor vehicles Inspectors with headquarters at Alleppey, Tiruvalla, Mavelikara, Kayamkulam and Shertallai. They are authorised to perform the duties of the Motor vehicle Inspector such as inspection and checking of Motor vehicles, service verification of vehicles, etc. There is also a Regional Transport Authority for the District consisting of 5 members-3 officials and two non-officials. The official members are the District Collector (Chairman), the District Superintendent of Police and the Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads. The non-official members are nominated by Government. The Regional Transport officer is the Secretary and Executive officer of the Regional Transport Authority. There were 123 bus routes within the District as on March 31, 1965 under the management of private transport agencies. The total number of trips sanctioned came to 1117. An analysis of permit holders for passenger service operations according to the size of the fleet in Alleppey District as on March 31, 1965 is given below.

No. of buses	No. of permit holders
One bus	31
Two buses	25
Three buses	10
Four buses	11
Five buses	9
Above 5 and below 10	7
Above 10 and below 15	2
Above 15 and below 20	..

Above 20 and below 25	..
Above 25 and below 50	..
Above 50 and below 75	1
Above 75 and below 100	..
Above 100 buses	..

For each bus there are seven employees—two drivers, two conductors, one cleaner, one checker and one mechanic. The total number of employees in the private buses plying in the District would come to about 500. At the same time for each goods vehicle there are two drivers, two cleaners and one mechanic. The total number of employees in this field would come to about 1,200. The minimum wages prescribed to the employees are as follows-

Driver — Rs.65 per month and Re. 1 batta per day
 Cleaner— Rs.42 per month and Re. 1 batta per day
 Conductor --Rs 60 per month and Re. 1 batta per day

STATE TRANSPORT SERVICE

The history of the State Transport Services in Alleppey goes back to the year 1949 when the erstwhile Travancore Government nationalised the Alleppey-Arur route on Meenam 1, 1124 (March 1949). With the integration of the States of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 Alleppey town became an important point in the transport system of the District as regular services were started connecting Trivandrum in the South and Ernakulam, the capital of the erstwhile Cochin State. The nationalisation of the Quilon-Alleppey route on Chingam 1-1125 (August 17, 1949) facilitated this step.

The Kerala Road Transport Corporation (the former State Transport Department) runs regular services on the most important routes in the District. The activities of the Corporation in the District of Alleppey are controlled by two District Transport officers with headquarters at Alleppey and Chengannur respectively. They are responsible for the operation of the services according to the schedule. As per the allocation of schedules on April 1, 1965 there were 77 ordinary and 4 Fast Passenger services operating within these Transport Districts. A list showing the routes on which services were in operation on April 1965 is given below.

S1. No	Name of route	Route Distance in Kilometres
1	Alleppey—Trivandrum	160
2	„ Ernakulam	63

3	„	Quilon	86
4	„	Kayamkulam	46
5	„	Kayamkulam via Karthikapally	46
6	Alleppey—	Mavelikara	45
7	„	Chengannur	63
8	„	Tiruvalla	72
9	„	Tiruvalla via Puliur	72
10	„	Ambalapuzha	14
11	„	Punnapra	7
12	„	Haripad	33
13	„	Kanichukulangara	19
14	„	Shertalai	23
15	„	Edacochin	48
16	„	Ernakulam via Fort Cochin	78
17	„	Kalavur	8
18	„	Trichur	140
19	„	Kanjikuzhi	14
20	„	Pallathuruthi	6
21	„	Tottapalli	23
22	„	Turavur	33
23	„	Kalarcodu	3
24	„	Mararikulam	16
25	„	Quilon via Mavelikara	95
26	Pallathuruthi—	Nedumudi	5
27	Nedumudi—	Kidangara	11
28	Haripad—	Kayamkulam via Tattarambalam	17

RAILWAYS

The history of the Railways in this District begins only during the post-independence period. A 96.55 mile long metre gauge link connecting Ernakulam and Cochin Harbour with Quilon was inaugurated by Prime Minister Nehru on December 25, 1952 and it was completed in 1958. The section between Ernakulam to Kottayam was opened on October 17, 1956 and that from Kottayam to Quilon on January 6, 1958. There are five Railway Stations on this line in Alleppey District, viz., Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Cherianad, Chengannur and Tiruvalla. The Railway enters the District

1 The dates given in the *Quilon District Gazetteer* viz., June 1, 1958 for Quilon-Kottayam and October 7, 1956 for Kottayam-Ernakulam have to be corrected as above.

between Oachira and Kaya nkulam stations and leaves it between Tiruvalla and Changanacherry stations.

A statement of the Railway Stations with the details of the distance between them and the number of passengers booked at each station for the year ending March 31, 1960 is given below.

RALLWAY STATIONS

Name of stations	Distance between stations Kms	Number of passengers booked during the year ending March 31, 1960
Kayamkulam	8	60, 219
Mavelikara	6	63, 579
Cheriyarad	6	1, 01, 284
Tiruvalla	9	81, 186

Upper class waiting rooms are provided in the Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Chengannur and Tiruvalla stations and third class waiting rooms in all the stations. There is a refreshment room at Chengannur. Booking and reservation facilities are provided at all stations in this District.

WATER TRANSPORT

Waterways play an important part in the transport and communication system of the District. The West Coast Canal which starts from Hosdurg in the north and ends at Trivandrum in the south flows through this District. Two sections of the Canal viz., the Cochin-Alleppey Section (44 miles) and Alleppey-Quilon Section (46 miles) lie partly in Alleppey.

The Cochin-Alleppey Section is the most important area of the West Coast Canal system and it serves the major port of Cochin and places of commercial importance like Cochin, Ernakulam Alleppey and Kottayam. It consists of the Vembanad lake and extends from Cochin to Alleppey along the Shertallai and Ambalapuzha Taluks. The lake is very deep in some places and rather shallow at other places. It is affected by the tidal action of the sea and a bed regulator is being constructed at Tannirmukkam across the neck of the lake at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 lakhs. Alleppey town has direct access to the Vembanad lake which on its eastern

fringes is only about 3 miles away from Kottayam. It is also connected with Changanacherry town, about 19.3 Km. (12 miles) south of Kottayam, by the newly constructed Alleppey-Changanacherry canal which passes through the Kuttanad area, the 'Granary of the State'. The Wadai and Commercial canals take off from the Vembanad lake and run parallel through the heart of Alleppey town. They are also connected together by cross canals. A large number of coir factories are located along the banks of the canals mainly due to the transportation facilities.

The Alleppey-Quilon section lies in parts in the Anthalapuzha and Karthikapally Taluks of this District. The waterway leaves the Vembanad lake, enters one of the branches of the Pamba river, joins the Karumady canal, passes through Pottapally lock, Trikunapuzha and Arattupuzha, the two important coir producing centres and falls into Kayamkulam lake. The Chavara canal 6.64 Km. (4 miles 1 furlong) long connects Kayamkulam lake with the Ashtamudi lake, passing through the Ayiramtheengu Kayal and the Panmana Kayal and crossing the Chavara bridge. The Kayamkulam Kayal extends from Karthikapally to Panmana and is 30.58 km. in length with its expansions at the southern and northern extremities. It is very shallow and has an outlet at the bar of the same name.

Moreover, some of the rivers that flow through the District are also navigable to some extent and they are linked to the West Coast Canal. The Pamba, the third longest river in Kerala, which flows through this District is navigable for 74.03 km. (46 miles) up to Ranni (Quilon District) during the monsoon season when there is sufficient water. It joins the Achenkoil river at Veeyapuram (Karthikapally Taluk). The Achenkoil 128.75 km. (80 miles) long navigable upto Mavelikara in all seasons and upto Kollakadavu during rainy seasons.

Apart from the West Coast Canal system and the navigable rivers there are many inland canals which play a notable part in inland water transport as they inter-connect the rivers on which places of commercial importance or factories are situated and also give connection from these interior places to the West Coast Canal system which links up the ports. The following inland canals fall within the Alleppey District:

Poochakkal canal—2.3 km. (1½ miles) length. It connects Vembanad lake with Kuthiathodu. During summer loaded country

crafts get stuck up due to lack of depth at certain places. The main obstacles in the route is the Poochakkal bridge which has to be operated annually to raise it to allow boats to pass.

Alleppey-Kottayam—20.3 km (12 5/8 miles) length. This joins Vembanad lake with Cutcherry Kadavu in Kottayam. This gives direct connection to Alleppey for boat service also.

Alleppey-Changanacherry Road-cum-Canal—This is an artificial canal recently cut by the side of the Alleppey-Changanacherry road, which links the Main Central Road with the Quilon—Alleppey road. It is 54.9 m (60 feet) wide. Its depth is 18.3 m (20 feet). It crosses the Pamba river at Kidangara while stretching from the boat basin at Keronna up to Monkombu. Thence it is connected to Alleppey through rivers and backwaters.

Alleppey—Wadai canal—2.2 km. (2 miles) length. It connects Vembanad lake with Alleppey town. Alleppey boat jetty is situated on the side of this canal.

Alleppey—Commercial canal—Feeder—3.6 km. (2 1/4 miles). This also connects Vembanad lake with Alleppey town.

Alleppey-Ambalapuzha Canal-Feeder—11.3 km. (7 miles) length. It starts from Alleppey Chungom and ends at Ambalapuzha after passing through Tiruvambadi, Kalatcode and Punnapra. Navigation in this reach is handicapped by the dense growth of water-hyacinth. This has a branch 0.6 km, (3 furlongs) in length ending at Kakkazham.

Alleppey-Talavadi canal—33.4 km. (22 miles) length. This connects Talavadi on the Pamba with the Vembanad lake. It passes through Kainakari, Chennamkari, Nedumudi, Kandankari, and Edathua. There is also regular passenger boat service through this route.

Ambalapuzha-Purakkad canal - Feeder 5.23 km. (3 1/4 miles) length. It takes off from the West Coast Canal, passes near the temple in Purakkadu and ends near the Ambalapuzha temple. It thus gives a connection from Ambalapuzha to the industrial town of Alleppey.

Danapadi canal—11.3 km. (7 miles) length. takes off from Veeyapuram river and joins the West Coast Canal. This canal gives a direct connection to the Pamba and Achenkoil rivers both of which join at Veeyapuram.

Karipuzha-canal - Feeder 8 km. (5 miles). It extends from Kayamkulam lake up to Karipuzha bridge reached from Mavelikara

distant 5.6 km (3½ miles) on the Mavelikara-Trikunnapuzha road. It touches the Kayamkulam-Krishnapuram road and the Kayamkulam Mavelikara road.

The Salt Bankshall canal - Feeder - 8 km. (5 miles), takes off from the West Coast canal and ends at the Salt Bankshall at Kayamkulam. Formerly, when the State has the monopoly of the sale of salt, it was conveyed through this canal and stored in the godown by the side of the canal (Salt Bankshall) and hence the name.

The principal landing place in the District are Shertallai, Alleppey, pulikeezh, Chengannur and Kayamkulam. A Statement of landing places in the West Coast canal system with details of their location and transport facilities to places served by them is given below:-

Statement of Landing Places, their location and transport facilities to places served by them

Section of the canal in which the landing place is located	Taluk	Name of landing place	Principal places served by the landing place	Transport facilities available
1 Cochin-Alleppey Section	Shertallai	Muttom landing	Shertallai market and neighbouring places	There is road facilities to all Places
2 -do-	Ambalapuzha	Alleppey Wadai canal landing ghat.	Alleppey market	There is approach road to all places in the Taluk
3 -do-	-do-	Alleppey Commercial canal stone bridge wharf	Alleppey Market and Ambalapuzha	There is approach road to market, Ambalapuzha etc.
4 Alleppey-Qullon Section	Karthika-pally	Kayamkulam market landing place	Kayamkulam market and Oachira	There is approach road to Kayamkulam market Oachira, etc.

There are regular boat services operating between important centres within this District. The particulars of passenger Motor Boats operating on different routes are given below.-

PARTICULARS OF PASSENGER MOTOR BOATS SERVICES

Route	Dist- Miles	No. of boats oper- ating.	No. of trips	Duration of trans- port Hrs. Mts	Fare charged P	No. of Passengers carried per day
Alleppey-Munnar (Vembanad lake, Pamba river)	28	2	2	5 00	0 50	100
-do-Pulikizh(-do-)	25	3	3	4 30	0 50	300
-do-Chenga- nnur (-do-)	55	5	5	6 00	0 75	300
-do-Chathankari (-do-)	22	1	1	4 00	0 50	100
-do-Changana- cherry (Vembanad lake, Pamba river Kidangara Changanacherry canal)	18	12	24	3 30	0 44	2,000
-do-Kayamkulam (Paraba river; Trikunnapuzha Kayamkulam lake)	33	1	1	6 80	0 56	100
-do-Quilon (Pamba river, Trikunna- puzha Kayamkulam Kayal, Chavara canal and Ashta- mudi lake)	49	11	11	9 00	0 87	3,000
Talavadi Takazhi (Vembanad lake, Pamba river)	6	1	5	1 00	0 25	200

In addition, there are regular inter-District passenger boat services operating between Alleppey on one side and Ernakulam and

Kottayam, on the other. The details of these are given in the Eranakulam and Kottayam District Gazetteers

It may be mentioned in this context that till December 1965 the inland water transport service were run by the Kerala Water Transport Corporation which was set up by the Government in 1958 with headquarters at Alleppey. The Corporation owned a fleet of 117 boats and it was running 278 trips in all on 33 routes. It had 1,361 employees on its pay roll. However, since its inception the Corporation had been working at a loss almost every year. In 1965 the Corporation was therefore, wound up and the inland water transport services run by it were taken over by a Board of Management constituted by the Government with the Chairman of the Kerala Road Transport Corporation as Chairman.

FERRIES

The list of ferries supplied by the Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Alleppey shows that there are 170 of them in this District. Of these 130 are full time ferries and the rest seasonal.

BRIDGES

The construction of bridges had added substantially to the facilities of communication in recent years. Among the most important bridges constructed in this District prior to Independence the following deserve special mention.

Bridges	Location
1 Pantalam (Achencoil)	65. 3/4 M.C. Road
2 Chengannur or Erappuzha	75. 3/8 M.C. Road
3 Varattar	76. 5/8 M.C. Road
4 Manimala	77. 3/8 M.C. Road
5 Kayamkulam	34. 5/8 Quilon-Alleppey Road
6 Vallamkulam (Manimala)	3. 1/4 Tiruvalla-Kozhencherry Road

Among the above bridges the Erappuzha or Chengannur bridge is a reinforced concrete bridge and is located on the crossing of Pamba river. It is open spandrel type consisting of 3 clear spans each of 120 ft. Each span has two ribs two ft. wide, rectangular in cross section and faced at 10 ft. centres. The depth of the rib varies from 3 ft. at the crown to 7 ft. at the springing. The bridge has 15 ft. square roadway. The total cost of the bridge comes 3.75 lakhs of rupees. It was thrown open to traffic in August 1921.

During the period following Independence construction of bridges received an impetus. Among the most important of the new bridges constructed in this District may be mentioned the bridge at Tottapalli on the N.H.47 in the place of the old wooden bridge, the Kollakadavu bridge, Tondara bridge etc., Pulikizli bridge, Arattukadavu bridge, Ponnai bridge etc. Brief descriptions of these bridges are given below:-

TOTTAPALLI ROAD BRIDGE

The Tottappalli Road Bridge is located at M. 38 of the Quilon-Alleppey Road (National Highway 47). The work was taken up in the year 1963 and it cost the exchequer Rs. 5 lakhs. It was thrown open to traffic in April 1964. The bridge is of R. C. C deck slab and girder type and has 3 spans totalling a length of 166'. The sub-structure is of rubble masonry abutments and piers founded on wells. The roadway width is 24' and the widthway of the approaches varies between 32' to 40'. The bridge is designed to carry I. R. C. Class AA loading (Double Lane).

KOLLAKADAVU BRIDGE

The bridge is located at 4.1 of Mavelikara-Chengannur road across the Achenkoil river, about 3½ miles east of Mavelikara town and about 7 miles south-west of Chengannur town. It is of R. C. C. and has been designed for two lane traffic of I. R. C. (Indian Road Congress) class 'A' loading (1947). The length of the bridge is 245'. It is of the bow string type with 3 spans. It was completed in 1953 and is under the control of the P. W. D.

TONDARA BRIDGE

This is the first prestressed concrete bridge in Kerala State. It is located across the Manimala river in mile 76.6 M.C. Road which is at the southern boundary of Tiruvalla Municipal Town. The clear road way of the bridge is 22' wide. The bridge is founded on wells. It was completed and opened to traffic in 1957. The bridge has 3 central spans of 96' each and 2 land spans of 30' each. The girders of the 3 main spans are of prestressed concrete. The cost of construction of the bridge came to Rs. 5,76,008.

ARATTUKADAVU BRIDGE

The Arattukadavu bridge is across the Achancoil river in mile 1/1 of Movelikara Tiruvalla road, just one mile from Mavelikara. The whole bridge including piers is reinforced cement concrete founded on 12" R.C.C. piles. The decking is of continuous 'T' girder type with a clear road way 22' wide designed for 2 lanes of I. R. C. class A

loading. The bridge has a total length of 418 ft. The construction of the bridge was started in 1956 and completed and opened for traffic in 1959. The cost of construction was Rs. 5,35,191.

PONNAI BRIDGE

The bridge is across the Pamba in 6/2 Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road at Ponnai ferry. The bridge including the piers is of R.C.C. founded on R.C.C. piles 12" sq. Its total length is 462 ft. with 7 spans of 66' each. The deck is R.C.C. T beam and slab type simply supported. The clear width of the road way is 22' designed for I. R. C. Class A loading (2 lane traffic). The bridge was completed and opened to traffic in 1963. The total cost of construction was Rs. 8,15,196

PULIKIZH BRIDGE

This bridge is at Pulikizh across the Manimala river in the Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road. It consists of 4 main spans of 96' each and 2 land spans of 30' each and thus the total length is 444 ft. The deck is of the R.C.C. box type design for the main span and R.C.C. T beams slab for land span. The width of road way is 22' designed for I.R.C. class A loading (2 lane traffic). The work was commenced on 1958 and the bridge was opened to traffic in 1964. The cost of construction came to Rs. 9,49,443.

NIRAITUFURAM BRIDGE

The bridge is across the Manimala river in Tiruvalla-Edathua road. The length of 336' consists of 3 main spans of 96' each and 2 land spans of 24' each. The deck is of R. C. C. balanced cantilever type T beams and slab and founded on masonry wells. The bridge is designed for I.R.C. class A loading (2 lane traffic). The work commenced during 1957 and was completed in 1963. The clear width of the road way is 22'. The cost of construction was Rs. 6,32,671.

ITTYNAYARKADAVU BRIDGE

The bridge is across the Kuttemperur river in Mannar-Puliyur road. The length of the bridge is 293' and the width of road way is only 16'. The bridge is designed for I.R.C. class B loading. The R.C. deck and piers are founded on R.C.C. piles. The decking is of R.C.C. continuous T girder type. The bridge was completed in 1958. The total cost of construction came to Rs. 1,96,190,

ELAMPANAMTODU BRIDGE

This is located in the Mannar-Viyapuram road, about 3 miles west of Mannar. It has a length of 100'. The bridge has two spans

simply supported R.C.C. T beams and slab type of 50' each and the clear width of the road way is 22'. It was completed in 1964. The cost on account of the bridge came to Rs. 1.89,743.

PORTS

Alleppey, the principal port in the erstwhile State of Travancore, is situated in Lat. 9.30' N, Long. 76.19 40 E (Light House) and is open to Coastal and foreign trade. the latter dating back to the latter part of the 18th century. As a seaport it owes its importance to a mud bank off the coast which renders the sea smooth for shipping operations for the bulk of the year. The port normally functions for a period of eight months from September 15 to May 15. The approaches to the port are free from any outlying danger. The light houses at the port when viewed at a distance gives a single beam showing one flash in every 15 seconds. The light is exhibited from sunset to sunrise, the height of the centre lantern being 113 feet above high water and range of visibility 16 miles. Another aid is a light exhibited throughout the night from the pier end of Alleppey Port. Messages from steamer to Port and vice versa are received and transmitted by light signalling arrangement at this port.

Alleppey is an open roadstead with good holding ground of mud and sand to steamers of all sizes and vessels anchoring here should take up a berth southwards of the Pier with the Light-House bearing from N.E. to E.N.E. and as close to the shore as possible in order to obtain a quick despatch. The prevailing winds are from the W.N.W. The litoral current, close in shore, sets to the southward, making it very difficult for cargo boats to fetch steamers anchored in the roads. Occasional, by a return set to the northward is experienced, but it is usually very feeble and occurs during the months October to February inclusive. The southerly set during this period is also feeble. During March and April the sea breeze blows strongly in the afternoon with the result that steamers loading should anchor well to the South. During strong winds a careful lookout should be kept on cargo boats leaving the shore, and should they not be able to fetch a steamer she should shift her berth further southward. During the south-west monsoon from about the middle of May to the middle of August, the port is normally closed. Steamers however continue to call at or near the port when weather conditions permit and the mud bank is sufficiently developed to afford smooth water for shipping operations.

There is a Pier 1270' long, fitted with two Steam Cranes, one Electric Crane and one Hand Crane, besides eight Cargo Stages for

handling bag cargo and such other items. The largest crane lifts up to 5 tons. There is a large Godown accommodation and a canal system connects the inland backwaters with the Port. Steamers to and from Europe, America, Australia and other eastern ports call at Alleppey. The port has canal and backwater communications to the surrounding country and the coast from Calicut on the north to Trivandrum on the south and also good roads for major transport throughout the state. The principal import is rice and the exports are coir yarn, Mats and Matting, Coir Fibre, Coir Rope, Pepper, Turmeric, Ginger, etc.

A statement showing the number and tonnage of vessels that called at the Alleppey Port during the period 1960-61 to 1964-65 and the total revenue collected at these ports is given below.

Statement showing the number and tonnage of ships called at Alleppey Port (1960-65)

Steamers		Sailing vessels		Total		Dues collected	
Year	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage	Rs.
1960-61	159	565,556	11	1,805	170	567,861	1,52,244.07
1961-62	149	631,890	7	974	156	632,864	1,98,548.02
1962-63	149	653,451	5	878	154	654,329	2,05,568.02
1963-64	130	561,164	...	...	130	561,164	1,82,555.00
1964-65	121	507,686	...	...	121	507,686	2,04,613.00

AIR TRANSPORT

There is no Aerodrome in this District. The nearest one is at Cochin.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES

There are 9 Rest Houses and Tourist Bungalows in the District maintained by the Public Works Department. They are located at Alleppey, Shertallai, Haripad, Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Pallikal, Chengannur, Kulanada and Tiruvalla. While the District Collector is the authority for reservation of rooms in the Rest Houses at Alleppey, Shertallai, Kayamkulam and Tiruvalla, the Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Alleppey exercises this power in respect of the other Rest Houses. A complete list of Rest Houses, Travellers Bungalows, etc., in this District with such details as their location, amenities provided is given in Appendix. In addition, there are *safarims* at Aranmula and Kavumbhagom maintained by the

Revenue Department. The Alleppey Municipality also maintains a *satram* in Alleppey town. Proposal for the establishment of a tourist centre in Kuttanad area is under the active consideration of the Government. The State Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee recommended the construction of a Tourist Bungalow at Mannathumughom, but alternate sites were suggested by responsible public bodies at Kavalam, Munro Turuthu, Munro Island and the land opposite to the Munro Island. A special committee appointed by the Government ultimately selected the land opposite to Munro Island for the construction of the Tourist Bungalow. The proposal, if it materialises is likely to give a fillip to tourism in this District.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

An indigenous postal system called Anchal was prevalent in this District from the days of Marthanda Varma (1729-98). Regular Anchal services extended up to Shertallai and beyond even as early as 941 K. E. (1765-66). A document of the year 965 K. E. shows that at the time Travancore State was divided into two Anchal Divisions, one extending from Tovala to Varkala and the other from Quilon to Parur.

Postal communication under the auspices of the Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department was first introduced in Travancore in 1857 and it was at Alleppey that the first Post Office was opened. The first telegraph office was also opened at Alleppey, in 1864. Early in the century there were Post Offices at Alleppey, Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Shertallai and Tiruvalla and Telegraph Offices at all these places except Shertallai. The local Anchal and the British Indian postal systems functioned side by side till the Anchal Department was formally merged in the Indian Postal Department in April 1951. The administration of the Post and Telegraph Department in this District is under the charge of the Superintendent of Post Offices with head-quarters at Quilon. A Taluk-wise statement of Post Offices, etc., in this District as on July 1, 1964 is given below.

Taluk	Head Offices	Sub- Offices	Branch Offices	Combined P&T Offices	Branch Offices doing S B work
Ambalapuzha	1	9	14	5	2
Chengannur	..	15	34	6	6
Karthikapally	..	8	35	5	10
Kuttanad	..	8	15	5	4
Mavelikara	..	11	31	5	6
Shertallai	..	11	31	7	8
Tiruvalla	1	23	58	13	19

TELEPHONES

There are 21 telephone Exchanges in this District, Such details as their location, type, capacity, number of connections etc. are given in the table below.

Telephone Exchanges (1967)

Location	Type	Capacity	No. of con- nections	No. of Extensions	PCOs
Alleppey	AUTO	1200	1037	103	12
Chengannur	SAX	100	73	2	7
Edathua	SAX	50	40	nil	5
Kayamkulam	CB	200	137	11	5
Kollakadavu	SAX	25	18	nil	3
Kothiatthode	SAX	50	22	nil	2
Mannar	SAX	25	18	nil	3
Mallappally	SAX	25	12	nil	2
Mavelikara	CB	100	82	11	8
Nangiarkulangara	SAX	50	40	1	4
Pantalarn	SAX	50	32	nil	3
Pulincunnu	SAX	100	40	2	4
Puramattom	SAX	50	32	nil	5
Shertallai	CB	200	118	19	5
S. L. Puram	SAX	50	25	nil	3
Thycattussery	SAX	50	19	1	2
Theodical	SAX	25	9	nil	2
Thiruvalla	CB	200	168	10	10
Ambalapuzha	SAX	35	15	nil	1
Noornad	SAX	35	13	1	1
Oachira	SAX	25	17	1	1

RADIO LICENCES

The total number of Broadcast Receiver Licences issued in the Alleppey District during the period from 1961-62 to 1966-67 are furnished below:-

Year	Number of Radio Licences issued
1961-62	6,180
1962-63	7,264
1963-64	7,524
1964-65	8,616
1965-66	9,615
1966-67	11,153

Organisations of Employees in the field of Transport and Communications

The most important labour unions of the Kerala State Transport employees are (1) The Kerala State Transport Employees Union, (2) Ferry and Transport Workers' Union, (3) Mechanical Workers' Union, (4) Kerala State Transport Workers' Union (5) Kerala State Transport Staff Union, (6) Kerala State Transport Watch and Ward Association and (7) The Kerala State Transport Labour Union. The State Transport employees in this District are active members of the organisations mentioned above.

In the field of Private Motor Transport the notable organisations are (1) Alleppey District Private Motor Drivers' Union, Shertallai, (2) Kayamkulam Taxi Drivers' Union, Kayamkulam. (3) Mavelikara Taluk Private Motor Workers' Union, Mavelikara. (4) The All Travancore Motor and Mechanical Workers' Congress, Alleppey (5) All Travancore Private Transport Motor Mechanical Workers Union, Kayamkulam, (6) Kerala Motor and Workshop Workers' Union, Alleppey and (7) Alleppey District Private Motor Drivers' Union, Shertallai.

The port workers and employees in the motor boat service have also their organisations. The most important of them are the following:- (1) The Steam and Motor Boat Crew Association, Alleppey, (2) Alleppey Port Workers' Union, Alleppey, (3) Thirukochi Navika Thozhilali Union, Kayamkulam, (4) Alleppey Akhila Kerala Barge Thozhilali Union, Alleppey, (5) Alleppey Marine Workers Union, Alleppey, (6) Alleppey Port Clerks Association, Alleppey, (7) The Landing and Loading Workers Union, Alleppey, (8) Kerala Motor Boat Staff Association Alleppey, (9) Thirukochi Motor Boat Manufacturers' Union Alleppey, (10) Kuttanad Taluk Navika Thozhilali Union, Kainakari, and (11) Alleppey District Navika Thozhilali Union, Haripad.

The Rickshaw pullers have a union of their own in this District, viz., the Ambalapuzha Taluk Cycle Rickshaw Thozhilali Union, Alleppey.

The employees of the Post and Telegraph Department have 8 unions affiliated to the National Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Employees Union (NEPTEU). They are (1) All India Postal Employees Union Class III, (2) All India Postal Employees Union Postmen and Class IV, (3) All India Telegraph Engineering Employees' Union Class III, (4) All India Telegraph Engineering Employees' Union Line

- Staff and Class IV, (5) All India R. M. S. Employees Union Class III
 (6) All India R. M. S. Employees Union Mail-guards and Class III,
 (7) All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union Class III and
 (8) All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union Class IV.

APPENDIX I

CLASSIFIED LIST OF ROADS IN ALLEPPEY DISTRICT

Name of road	Length		
	Miles	Furlongs	Feet
I National Highway 47			
Quilon-Alleppey Road 20/4 to 51/3	30	7	...
A. A. Road 0/0 to 28/7	28	7	...
II Provincial Highways			
1 M. C. Road	21	3	...
2 Kayamkulam-Pathanapuram road via Adur	12	0	...
3 Kayamkulam-Tiruvalla road via Pannai	9	0	0
4 Tiruvalla-Kumazha road via Kozhencherry & Patnanamthitta	6	0	0
5 Mavelikara-Kozhencherry road via Puliur & Chengannur	15	2	0
6 Ambalapuzha-Tiruvalla road	17	4	0
7 Alleppey-Changanacherry road	11	0	0
8 Kottayam-Kozhencherry road (within Alleppey District)	15	2	0
	107	3	0

III DISTRICT ROADS

1 Mavelikara-Krishnapuram road	7	4	0
2 Chetukulangara-Chunakara road	3	2	0
3 Tattarambalam-Trikunnapuzha road	7	0	0
4 Karthikapally-Haripad road	1	5	0
5 Haripad-Veeyapuram road	3	0	0
6 Totapalli-Trikunnapuzha road	2	2	0
7 Alleppey-Tanneermukkam road	13	5	0
8 Kalavur-Mannancherry road	1	3	0
9 Kanjikuzhi-Mararikulam road	1	7	0
10 Kanjikuzhi-Muhamma road	2	3	0
11 Arthungal-Mararikulam road	4	2	0
12 Road from 9/2 of AA road to Kanichakulangara	2	7	0

13	Kuruppankulam to Kanichukulangara	3	6	0
14	Road from 11/1 AA road to Tanneermukkam	2	6	0
15	Extension of Chonganda-Kalikulam road	2	2	0
16	Shertallai-Tanneermukkam road	3	6	0
17	Shertallai-Arthungal road	4	5	0
18	Road from 15/7 AA road to Kadakarapalli	2	2	0
19	Road from 14/7 AA road to Sakteeswararam temple	1	6	0
20	Pattanakadu Vayalar	1	6	0
21	Road from Vayalar south to north	3	2	0
22	Shertallai Arukutty road via Cheganda	14	3	0
23	Road from 20/3 AA road to Makkey landing	3	2	0
24	Road from 20/3 AA road to Kumbalanji	6	3	0
25	Eramallur Ezhupunna road	0	7	0
26	Kanjirathumypady Chathurthikary road	3	0	0
27	Kavumbhagam Idirjillam road	3	0	0
28	Swamipalam Mopnai road	2	0	0
29	Road from South of Taluk Cutcheri to F. K. Road	4	0	0
30	Road from 82nd mile M. C. road to 5th mile CW road	0	2	0
31	Tiruvalla-Mallappally road	11	1	0
32	Trikodithanam-Kunnamthanam road	1	5	0
33	Changanacherry-Kaviyur road	5	0	0
34	Kunnamthanam road	3	0	0
35	Road from Mallappally to Thuruthikadu and thence to Komalam	4	0	0
36	Tottabhagam-Mallappally road	5	0	0
37	Komalam-Puthusseri road	1	4	0
38	Puvakadavu-Chelakombu road	6	0	0
39	Nedumkunnam-Anikadu road	1	4	0
40	Jacob road	6	0	0
41	Bastow road-1st and 2nd section	9	4	0
42	Vennikulam-Ranni road	7	4	0
43	Valankara-Ayur road	6	0	0
44	Thudiyilkadavu-Ezhumattur road	5	0	0
48	Cherukolpuzha-Ranni road	4	0	0
45	Kumbanadu-Cherukolpuzha road	5	2	0
46	Kuriyanaur-Maramon road	6	0	0

48	Road from 0/5 Kuriannur—Maramon road to Parapuzha Zing	2	0	0
49	Maramon—Arattupuzha road	4	0	0
50	Kumbanadu—Arattupuzha road	3	2	0
51	Pulladu—Othara road	2	6	0
52	Kumbanadu—Kallueppara road	3	0	0
53	S. M. V. road	2	5	0
54	Kallisserri—Eraviperur road	4	7	0
55	Thukalasserri—Kuttode road	2	0	0
56	Niranam church road	0	6	0
57	Chengannur—Mannar road	4	0	0
58	Mannar—Veejapuram road	3	1	0
59	Chengannur—Kodukulanji road (C. R. to Kollakadavu)	5	2	0
60	Mulakuzha-Kidangannur road	3	0	0
61	Pandalam—Aranmula road	7	0	0
62	Thumpamon—Pariyaram road	4	2	0
63	Kulanada—Omallur road	4	0	0
64	Kadakadu—Kaipattur road	4	0	0
65	Adur—Thumpamon road	3	2	0
66	Thonailur—Athikattukulangara road	4	3	0
67	Pailumudu—Pandalam road	2	2	0
68	Charummudu—Mankalamkuzhi road	4	3	0
69	Oachra—Tamarakulam road	7	4	0
70	Chunakara—Vathikulam road	2	0	0
71	Tattarambalam—Mannar road	8	0	0
72	Kurathikadu—Chunakara road	2	4	0
73	Ranni Branch road	1	4	0
74	9/7 AA road to 2½ Tanneermukkam—Muhamma road	2	6	0
75	Kaannakara road	0	5	0
76	1st mile of Kanjikuzhi—Muhamma road to Kevunkal	0	6	0
77	1½ Kanjikuzhi—Muhammu road to S. N. U. P. S	1	0	0
78	Road from Ermeattur to Ezhupunna	0	7	0
79	Shertallai—Arukutty road to Muttam lake	0	7	0
80	Eastern town road to Chengada—Kaiikulam road	0	4	0

81	North Muttam bazar road to Convent road	0	2	0
82	Chenganda Mukke landing 2nd section	3	5	0
83	-do- 3rd section	1	3	0
84	-do- road near Arukutty Hospital	0	2	0
85	Putholla to Nedumpurakadu	1	0	0
86	Ottapunna to Kelasumangalam	1	1	0
		<u>317</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

IV VILLAGE ROADS

1	Road from Kuruppankulam-Kanichukulam road to Tiruvizha temple	0	6	0
2	Road from Chenganda to Shertallai-Tanneermukkam road via Varanad temple	1	4	0
3	Road along north bank of Puthen Thodu	0	5	0
4	Road from Kochangadi Westwards to Kanjikuzhi	1	0	0
5	Shertallai Thekke theruvu to Tiruvizha Kizhakke nada	2	0	0
6	Maruthurvattom via Kuttaveli to Alleppey	4	0	0
7	Mannancherri to Tanneermukkam temple	3	4	0
8	Thanneermukkam via Ayyappancherry to Ezhava temple	2	6	0
9	Road from Chavu kadavu to Avilakunnu	2	0	0
10	Road from Kunjithal northwards to Vettakkal	2	7	0
11	Road from 2/3 Shertallai-Arthungal road to Kunjithal beach	0	7	0
12	Branch road from AA road (1. road from 27/3 AA to Kumbalangi crossing. (2) road from 27/1 AA road to Arukutty ferry (3) road from 24/1 AA road to Srinarayanapuram)	4	6	0
13	Road from Thonnikavu to Kuthiathodu	3	2	0
14	Road by the side of Ezhupunna kayal to Manakodam Kavalathodu	7	0	0
15	Road from Pattanacaud boundary to Vettackal	2	4	0
15	Road from Keraladithiyapuram temple to to eastern Shertallai	2	0	0
17	-do- -do- Southwards	1	4	0
18	Kayal back road	0	2	586

19	Thavauakkadavu road	0	5	0
20	Shertallai-Kuruppankulam road 1st section	1	3	37
21	0/5 Shertallai-Thanneermukkam road to Chenganda	1	2	550
22	Chenganda to Arukutty	1	0	0
23	Tricattukulam Pandinjarae Nada to 12th mile S. A. road	2	0	0
24	Chenganda to Puchakkal	3	0	0
25	Ottapunna to Kuruppankulam	1	2	0
26	Thekketheruvu via Tripurakulam to Puliyanakottubhagam	1	0	0
27	Shertallai-Kuruppankulam 2nd Section	0	3	330
28	Thekketheruvu to Tiruvizha Kizhakhe nada	1	6	0
29	Maruthurvattom via Kuttuveli to Alleppey	2	0	0
30	Shertallai Hospital westwards	0	4	0
31	Chenganda Public road to Puthotta	1	0	0
32	Road from 3/1 S. A. road to Muttom	0	7	155
33	Road from Eastern town road to joint Chenganda-Kalikulam road	0	4	310
34	-do- North Muttom Bazar road to Convent road	0	2	0
35	-do- -do- 3rd Section Thicattusseri to Puchakkal	1	3	0
36	-do- Chenganda to Mackey landing to Muttom 2nd section	3	4	360
37	-do- Puthotta to Nadumpracaud	1	0	0
38	-do- from Arukutty chowkey to Arukutty hospital	0	2	0
39	-do- Ottapunna to Kelamangalam 1st and 2nd section	1	1	0
40	Kuthiathodu Panchayat road	0	7	445
41	Road from 19th mile Canal Alleppey-Arur road to Andhakara Azhy	2	2	445
42	-do- 15/7 AA road to Kadakarappatly Extending up to Uzhuvathodu	0	3	0
43	Road from 1/2 Vayalar north south road to Muttom lake	0	2	555
44	-do- T.D, temple to Pallithodu	1	2	245

45	-do- Thanki road to south	0	5	586
46	-do- 0/7 Kuojitbai Beach road to Anthakara Azhy	1	0	140
47	Road from 14/5 Alleppey-Arur road to Murthikkal		4	192
48	Road from Pallithodu to Anthakara Azhy 1st section	0	3	470
49	Kuttur Beach road	1	6	0
50	Thondankulangara to beach	3	7	0
51	Kanjiramchira to Chettikadu	0	7	0
52	Akalukunnu to Puolic Road	1	7	0
53	Chowkkekadavu to Avalukunnu	5	6	0
54	Ambalapuzha temple to Purakkad	1	4	0
55	Approach road to Ambalapuzha temple	0	4	0
56	Alleppey-Ambalapuzh road to Ambalapuzha temple	0	3	0
57	Approach road to Ambalapuzha Palace	0	1	0
58	46/6 QA road to beach	0	5	0
59	47/2 -do-	0	6	0
60	43/3 -do-	0	7	0
61	Alleppey-Arur road to split the area between Kanjuzhi-Muhamma road and Kalavur-Mannancherry road	1	5	0
62	Extension of Kalavur-Mannancherry road	1	1	0
63	Chittikadu Mararikulam road	2	5	0
64	Road from 45/2 Q Road to Nirkunnam Canal	0	2	0
65	Kayamkulam-Karthikapally road	1	4	0
66	Kayamkulam-Muttam road	5	6	9
67	Pathiyur-Yenakulam road	3	1	0
68	Oachira-Govindamuttom road	3	0	0
69	Bhagayathipadi-Pathur road	1	4	0
70	Krishnapuram-Chunadu road	3	0	0
71	Puthiyadam-Govindamuttom road	1	6	0
72	Approach road to Krishnapuram	3	0	0
73	Approach road to Krishnapuram temple	0	0	330
74	Kudallur-Kuttumvathukkal road	2	0	0
75	Road from Koprouramukku to Mukkada	2	1	0
76	Kallummudi-Kuttumbathukkal road	2	0	0
77	Kayamkulam-Karthikapally	6	6	0
78	Kirikadu-Kanakakkunnu road	1	5	0
79	Road from Panmana School to backwater	1	1	0

80	Ramapuram-Vattathukadavu road	3	1	0
81	Cheppad-Panalappally road	1	0	0
82	Kayamkulam-Kirikadu road	1	1	0
83	Road from Vazhassery to Backwater	2	2	0
84	Cheppad-Chulath ruvu road	2	2	0
85	Panniappally-Puthenparabu road	1	0	0
86	Road from 29/6QA road to Thumukkolakkal	2	0	0
87	Haripad-Panur road	0	4	0
88	Road leading to Nelpura landing	0	6	0
89	Mustom-pallipad road	1	6	0
90	Haripad-Angilimuttill road	2	2	0
91	Mannarassala temple approach road	0	6	0
92	Western approach road to Haripad temple	0	1	40
93	Western approach road to Haripad temple	0	2	80
94	Approach road to Karipalil koikkal	0	1	340
95	Cheppad-Palaudu road	1	5	0
96	Approach road to Nagari temple	0	1	0
97	-do- Pathirankulangara temple	0	1	140
98	Vazhuthanam road	1	0	0
99	Cheruthana-Ganapathikul ngara road	1	0	0
100	Haripad-Ayarambu road	2	4	0
101	Road from 32/2 QA road to Karthikapally	1	2	0
102	Road from Pandarathal Mukku to Arayamkolangara	0	4	0
103	Mankuzhi-Valamkutan ara road	3	0	0
104	Mannar-Veeyapparam road 2nd section	2	0	7
105	Road from Karikulangara to backwater	3	0	0
106	Ramapuram-Kallummudu road	1	2	0
107	Road from Thruperumthura temple to Kuttamperur % to 2/0	2	0	0
108	Kollakadavu loop road	0	6	0
109	Kayamkulam-Mannar road 8/4 to 9/4	1	0	0
110	Chernkunno-Vettiyar road	3	0	4
111	K chikkal-Perinela road	5	4	0
112	Punnamud-Pallikal road 0/6 to 4/1 -do- % to 0/6	3 0	3 6	0 0
113	Puthiakavu-Pallikal road 0/4 to 4/0 do 4/0 to 6/0	3 2	4 0	0 0
114	Cheukol School to Kandiyur via Parakadavu	1	4	0
115	Kochikkal-Panachamudu road	0	2	495
116	Erezha private road	0	2	0

117	Mavelikara-Sabarimala road	1	4	0
118	Oripuram-Ennakkad road	1	6	0
119	Karipuzha-Pathiyour road	3	0	0
120	Road from Pynummdu to 1/1 Pynummdu Pandalam road	0	7	330
121	Road from Kayamkulam-Mannar road Vidyalayabhushani	0	1	0
122	Road 3/7 Kayamkulam-Mannar road to Kaanamangalam punja	1	1	0
123	Road north of Vathikulam to Chunakara	4	0	0
124	-do- -do-	2	4	0
125	Kurathikadu temple to Chunakara via Varayanikkal	2	0	0
126	Kannimel east of Puthukuliam road to Ellipakulam	2	0	0
127	Thriperumthura temple to Pakuthy Cutcherry	1	0	0
128	Kottapuzhakal Tazhava road % to 6/0	6	0	0
129	Road from 4,3 Mavelikara-Krishnapuram road to 0/6 Punnamudu-Pallikkal road	1	0	0
130	Erumakuzhi Edappamon road % to 4/0	4	1	0
131	Approach road to Adur-Tumpamon road	1	0	0
132	Road from 5th mile Adur-Tumpamon road to Anadapally-Kaninattur road	1	6	0
133	Approach road to 12th mile Quarry road	0	5	0
134	Approach road to 13th mile Quarry road	1	0	0
135	Oachira Tamarakulam road 2.0 to 9/1	7	4	0
136	Eravankara ryots road	1	6	0
137	Mavelikara Satampadi road	1	0	0
138	Erezha-Samthi road	1	0	0
139	Tamarakulam-Suranadu road	2	4	0
140	Road from 1/5 Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road to meet 1/4 Oripuram Ennakkad road	0	5	0
141	Kopparapuramukku to Mukkada road	2	1	0
142	Road from 62/2 MC road to 5th mile Adur Tumpomon road	2	6	0
143	Pallikal-Krishnapuram road	2	0	0
144	Road from 3/5 Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road to 7/6 Kayamkulam Mannar road at Edatumpadi	0	6	0

145	Road starting from Mavelikara-Chengannur road at old Achankoil ferry to meet Kollakadavu bridge	0	6	0
146	Road from 77th mile MC road to 3rd mile Eraviperur road	2	6	0
147	Kavubhagam-Takalasseeri road	3	0	0
148	79th mile MC road to 1st mile TK road	0	0	60
149	Pallivetta alu to river on the south	0	3	120
150	Tiruvalla takuk cutberry to Muther	1	3	0
151	Road from 0/7 T.K. Road to Meenthakara	0	6	330
152	Minor roads in Tiruvalla town	0	5	0
153	Road from 1/7 TK road to Kattodu	0	3	0
154	Road from 1st mile Tiruvalla-Pulikizhu road to Kulakattil	0	4	0
155	Tiruvalla Mallapalli road to Paliprakadavu	0	6	40
156	Road from Paliprakadavu to Enottu landing	0	6	0
157	Eraviperur to Prayattukadavu			
158	Road from Niranam Church road to Mundanari	2	0	0
159	Muvadathumpadi-Mepral road	3	0	0
160	Swampipalam-Kattumel road	0	5	314
161	Approach road to river crossing	1	6	0
162	Ayrattukadavu road	1	4	0
163	Ayrattukadavu to Kannattu landing	1	4	0
164	Aytattukadavu to Palipra xing	1	0	0
165	Road from Karathavadasserri-Puthusseri	1	4	0
166	Bishop AC road	2	0	220
167	Road from 6th mile SRV road to 3rd mile MC road	1	0	0
168	Road from 6th SRV road to FC road	2	2	0
169	Kavanalkadavu road	1	2	0
170	Attakulam-Vaipur road	3	0	0
171	Trikodithanam-Kunnamthanam road	1	5	0
172	Plankmon-Perurachal road	2	2	0
173	Puramattam-Karthavadasserikadavu	1	0	0
174	Puramattom-Kuzhikala road	0	6	0
175	Kallupara-Pakuthicutcherry to Charalathumnttilkadavu road	0	3	0
176	Road from 7/8 TK road to Mamala	1	3	0
177	Branch road to river Pamba	0	4	0

178	Vannikulam town road	1	0	0
179	Pullilkadavu road	0	4	0
180	Melathu landing road	0	3	0
181	Edakkadu Market to TK road	4	0	0
182	Vennikulam-Telliyur road	2	4	0
183	Konnattukadavu road	1	4	0
184	Ezhumattur village road	0	6	0
185	Extension of Krishnan Nair road Kzhavaa kadavu road	1	4	0
186	Tottavallil Asan road	1	4	0
187	Malpan road	3	2	0
188	Road from 12th mile TC road to Plankamon	7	0	0
189	Plankamon-Kumbalathanam road	2	0	0
190	Ezhumattur-Kumbalathanam road	2	1	0
191	Road from Telliyur to Perumbrakadu	1	2	0
192	11th mile VR road to Perumbrakadu	1	4	0
193	Velampadi road	0	6	0
194	Road from 1.5 Plankamon-Kumbalathanam road to VR road	2	0	0
195	Branch road to Kumbaladu	0	4	0
196	Plankamon-Kudamanvil kadavu road	2	4	0
197	Eraviperur-Pulladu road	2	0	0
198	Ayrur village road	1	0	0
199	Narayananamboothiri vilasam road	1	4	0
200	Road from Eastern end of Vallankulam bridge to Tottepuzha	0	4	0
201	N. R. V. road	0	4	0
202	Tekkinalkuzhikan kadavu road	2	4	0
203	Puthukadu-Pallikadavu road	0	3	0
204	Takkinal-Puthiyakadu road	1	7	0
205	Road connecting KN road to the road from Pulladu to Vennikulam	0	5	0
206	Road from Nerattupuram crossing to Narakathara market	0	6	0
207	Karikuzhi-Arthisserri road	1	4	0
208	Road from Chathenkary xing to 3/0 to Podiyadi Nerattupuram road	1	2	0

209	Manipuzha-Peringara road	0	5	0
210	Naramon-Veeyapuram 2nd section	2	5	0
211	Puvanakkadavu-Chelakombu road	3	5	0
212	Kunnamthanam Kaviyur road	2	5	0
213	Alapra road beginning from M. R. Road	1	0	0
214	Road from Kumbanadu-Othera to Puthen- kadavu-Pallickadavu road	2	4	0
215	Road from 6/2 TK road to 2/0 Kumbanadu- Othera road	1	3	0
216	Puthenkadavu to Eravelipuram road	1	0	0
217	Approach road to Erapuzha ferry	0	4	0
218	Road from Angadickal School to Puthencavu	1	0	0
219	Approach road to Police Office, Chengannur	0	6	0
220	Mannar-Puliyur	4	0	0
221	Road from Chengannur Market to Kadamthottil	0	3	0
222	Chengannur temple to Puthencavu	0	5	0
223	Chengannur Temple loop road	1	0	0
224	Road from Trichittattu temple to Puthiyottu canal	0	6	0
225	Ennakkad Gramam to Mamprapadam	1	6	6
226	Ennakkad Ulunthi (Taayamukku)	2	2	0
227	Chengannur temple to Aranamula	0	4	0
228	Erapuzha Perissery road	1	4	0
229	Road from Triperunthura temple to Alanjimmel via Kuttamperur	2	0	0
230	Ennakkad to Alanjimmel via Ponpuzha	1	5	0
231	Lane south of Kurathiyil temple	0	3	0
232	Chengannur-Mannar road 2nd section	2	0	0
233	Kayamkulam-Mannar road	1	0	0
234	Road from 0/8 Mannar-Puliyur road to Tombinalkadavu	1	0	0
235	Vadasserickavu Vanmazhi road	1	4	0
236	Road from Koiekal Mukku to Kuttamperur	1	4	0
237	Road from Kottackal kadavu to Karanma	3	0	0
238	Bhudhanoor-Kadampoor road	2	4	0

239	Road from Alummudu Junction in 4'7			
	Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road to Kuttanperur	2	0	0
240	Road from Puthencavu to Eraviperur	1	0	0
241	Road from 76th mile MC road to			
	Tiruvavandur	1	2	0
242	Tumpamon-Kozhencherri road 4/0 to 4/7	0	7	0
243	Road from 2/8 Pandalam-Araumula road			
	to Mezhuveli	1	0	0
244	Vallakadavu Kulanada road	7	0	0
245	Kodukulanji-Pulakadavu road 0/0 to 3/1	3	4	0
246	Perisserri-Cheriyanaadu road via Ala	3	2	0
247	Sabarimala Village road, portion from			
	Pottamel ferry to Puliyur 1/3 to 4/8	3	6	0
248	Road from Ennakad Gramam to Mamprapa-			
	dam (Cheriyanaad Section)	2	4	0
		<u>417</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>629</u>

V TOWN ROADS

1	Commercial Canal Bank road	4	2	0
2	Vedai canal Bank road	3	5	0
3	Syrian Church road	0	3	0
4	Ariad Kommadi road	1	2	180
5	Portion of Vattakotta road	0	1	260
6	A. S. Canal Bank road	1	2	0
7	Road from Pazhaveedu temple to Kalarkode	1	2	1 0
8	Vazhicherry-Kommady road	1	1	220
9	Road from Pulayanvazhi to beach	1	1	600
10	Palace road	1	7	544
11	English School road	3	2	400
12	Pi gue Camp shed road	0	4	360
13	Vattapally road	0	4	360
14	Commercial Canal High Bank road	0	2	0
15	Elephant gate road	0	1	590
16	Callan road	1	2	256
17	Mullakkai Ammancoil road	0	1	350
18	Exchange road	0	1	350
19	Vazhicherry road	0	1	350
20	Thumpoly road east and West	0	7	240
21	Jubly road	0	2	580

22	Thana road East and West	0	4	293
23	Uncertain road	0	6	150
24	Beach road	1	1	0
25	Tathanppally road	0	3	455
26	Old Munsiff Court land	0	2	480
27	Kalarkode Branch road	0	1	110
28	Road No. II	0	3	100
29	Ambalapuzha Branch road	1	3	50
30	Kochukada road	0	3	100
31	Approach road to Alleppey Palace	0	2	480
32	Portion of A. A. road	0	1	90
33	Thondankulangara Arlad Mandro light road	1	7	0
34	Road No. III	0	1	160
35	Road from A.A. road to Thunboly church	0	5	330
36	Kayamkulam T.B. road	0	4	0
37	New Fish market	0	1	0
38	Old Fish market	0	1	0
39	Thayyil-Perungala road	0	1	0
40	Road from Pullimuttill bridge to Puthiacavu-Pallickal road	1	6	0
41	Road from Mavelikara temple to south of Kandiyyur	1	0	0
42	Kandiyyur-Arattukadavu road	0	4	0
43	Puthiacavu-Pallickal road	0	4	0
44	Old Tiruvalla road	0	2	0
45	Road east of E.H.S. and old Kuttiltheruvu Rd 1	0	0	0
46	Road lane connecting the road from Pullimuttill bridge to Puthiacavu-Pallickal road and E.H.S. Mavelikara	0	2	0
47	Road from Mavelikara temple to Puthiacavu BH lane	1	5	0
48	13/1 A.A. road to Hospital	0	1	0
49	12/3 A.A. road to Mutram bazar	0	6	0
50	12/7 -do- to $\frac{1}{2}$ Shertailai-Arukutti road	0	6	0
51	12/8 A.A. road to Mutram Bazar	0	3	0
52	13/4 -do- to Rest House	0	2	0
53	13/8 -do- to Mutram Bazar and mill landing	0	5	0
54	14 2 -do- to Kuppankulam	0	5	0
55	Nadakkavu road	0	2	0
	Maramathu road			
	Approach road to Tiruvalla temple	0	2	225

Taxi	1	Rickshaw	7
Boat	12	Train	Nil

PUBLIC TRANSPORTS

PRIVATE MOTOR TRANSPORT

Private Motor transport plays an important part in the transport system of the District. There is a Regional Transport Officer at Alleppey having jurisdiction over the Alleppey District. He is the licensing and registering authority under the Travancore-Cochin Motor Vehicles Act 1950. Under him is a motor Vehicle Inspector who also functions as additional registering authority and licensing authority. In addition there are five Assistant Motor Vehicles Inspectors with headquarters at Alleppey, Tiruvalla, Mavelikara, Kayamkulam and Shertallai. They are authorised to perform the duties of the Motor Vehicles Inspector such as inspection and checking of motor Vehicles, service verification of vehicles, etc. There is also a Regional Transport Authority for the District consisting of 5 members-3 officials and two non-officials. The official members are the District Collector (Chairman), the District Superintendent of Police and the Executive Engineer, Buildings.

STATE TRANSPORT SERVICE

The history of the State Transport Services in Alleppey goes back to the year 1949 when the erstwhile Travancore Government nationalised the Alleppey-Arur route on Meenam 1, 1124 (March 1949). With the integration of the State of Travancore and Cochin in July 1949 Alleppey town became an important point in the transport system of the District as regular services were started connecting Trivandrum in the South and Ernakulam, the capital of the erstwhile Cochin State. The nationalisation of the Quilon-Alleppey route on Chingam 1, 1125 (August 17, 1949) facilitated this step.

The Kerala Road Transport Corporation (the former State Transport Department) runs regular services on the most important routes in the District. The activities of the Corporation in the District of Alleppey are controlled by two District Transport Officers with headquarters at Alleppey and Chengannur respectively. They are responsible for the operation of the services according to the schedule. As per the allocation of schedules on April 1, 1965 there were 77 Ordinary and 4 Fast Passenger services operating within these

Transport Districts. A list showing the routes on which services were in operation on April 1965 is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of route	Route distance in Kilometres
1	Alleppey—Trivandrum	160
2	„ Ernakulam	63
3	„ Quilon	86
4	„ Kayamkulam	46
5	„ Kayamkulam via Karthikapally	46

RAILWAY STATIONS

Name of stations	Distance between stations Kms	Number of passengers booked during the year ending March 31, 1960
Kayamkulam	8	60,219
Mavelikara	6	63,579
Cheriyana	6	1,01,284
Tiruvalla	9	81,186

Upper class waiting rooms are provided in the Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Chengannur and Tiruvalla stations and third class waiting rooms in all the stations. There is a refreshment room at Chengannur. Booking and reservation facilities are provided at all stations in this District.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATION

The Census Report of 1961 gives us an insight into the pattern of miscellaneous occupations in the Alleppey District. At the census the most important of miscellaneous occupational groups were classified under the broad division "Services". The major groups under this division are comprised of the following occupational classes:- viz., (1) Public Services (2) Educational and Scientific Services (3) Medical and Health Services (4) Religious and Welfare Services (5) Legal Services (6) Business Services (7) Community Services and Trade and Labour Associations (8) Recreation Services (9) Personal Services and Services not adequately described. The total number of persons employed under each of these major groups in the District are given in the following table.

Division	Total Workers		
	Persons	Male	Female
Total	70,297	47,740	22,557
1 Public Services	8,422	7,959	463
2 Educational and Scientific Services	16,418	9,577	6,841
3 Medical and Health Services	4,688	3,604	1,084
4 Religions & Welfare Services	3,772	8,081	691
5 Legal Services	990	977	13
6 Business Services	529	527	2
7 Community Services etc,	1,433	1,264	129
8 Recreation Services	848	744	104
9 Personal Services	32,458	19,299	13,159
10 Service not else where classified	739	708	31

PUBLIC SERVICES

It may be seen from the above table that 70,297 persons were employed in public services. This figure includes the employees of both the State and Union Governments (excluding those working in such fields as transport, communication, education, health services, industries, construction etc.), members of Armed Services and the Police and the employees of local bodies like the Municipalities. The particulars of persons employed in the Alleppey District in the more important of the minor groups referred to above are given below.

Group	Persons	Males	Females
Public Services in Police	1,384	1,369	15
Public Services in Offices of the Central Government	2,315	2,293	22
Public Services in Quasi-Government organisations and local bodies	1,031	932	99
Public Services in the Offices of the State Government	3,692	3,365	327

The public employees have their organisations of a representative character. The most important of them is the Kerala N. G. O. Union. The employees in some of the Municipalities of the District have formed their organisations too, Eg., the Municipal Staff Association, Alleppey, the Alleppey Municipal Workers Union, the Municipal Staff Association, Tiruvalla, the Madhya Tiruvitamcore Panchayat and Municipal Workers' Union, Kayamkulam etc. The public employees in Alleppey are not the beneficiaries of any special amenities or concessions peculiar to the District.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

TEACHERS

The teachers who constitute one of the most important of the learned professions in the District were included among "Educational and Scientific Services" in the Census of 1961. The predominant group among them is comprised of those employed in schools, colleges and similar institutions of a non-technical type. This group accounts for 16,074 persons (9,281 males and 6,793 females) out of the total number of 16,418 persons (9,577 males and 6,841 females) engaged in educational and scientific services. The teachers employed both in the Government and private schools in the District form a well organised occupational class, with immense capacity for collective bargaining. Such all-Kerala teachers' organisations as the Kerala Aided Primary Teachers' Union, the Kerala Government Primary Teachers' Union, the Private Secondary School Teachers' Association, the Kerala Private Secondary School Headmasters' Association and the Departmental Graduate Teachers' Association have their active units in this District.

The Medical and Public Health Service accounted for 4,688 persons (3,604 males and 1,084 females) at the Census of 1961. The major group among them viz., 4,564 persons (3,480 males and 1,084 females) consists of those employed in hospitals sanatoria, nursing

homes and maternity and child welfare clinics, as well as of Ayurvedic, Allopathic and Homeopathic practitioners. Among these were 2,480 (2,334 males and 146 females) physicians, surgeons and dentists, the Ayurvedic system claiming 1,387 persons (1,360 males and 27 females) and Homeopathy 356 (324 males and 27 females). The nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians numbered 1,989 (1,117 males and 872 females). The physicians of the District have also formed their organisations. A branch of the Indian Medical Association is functioning at Alleppey since 1941. In 1967 it had 75 members on its rolls. The Kerala State Indigenous Medicine Department Physicians Association, the Kerala Ayurveda Mandalam and the Kerala Grant Vaidyasala Sangham are also notable organisations in the field.

LAWYERS

The lawyers form one of the most prominent and active occupational groups in the District. The Census of 1961 gives the number of persons employed in legal services as 990 (977 males and 13 females). The figure includes baristers, advocates, solicitors, pleaders etc. The number of legal practitioners and advisers alone came to 455 (446 males and 9 females) while that of jurists and legal technicians including petition writers came to 486 (all males). The lawyers have their Bar Associations in all important centres where law courts are functioning. Information on these associations has been furnished in Chapter XII.

ENGINEERS

The total number of persons employed as Architects, Engineers and Surveyors at the Census of 1961 comes to 778 (776 males and 6 females). There were 362 Civil Engineers including Overseers. Information collected in 1965 regarding the number of engineers employed in the different departments shows that there were 11 Engineers in the Public Health Engineering Department, 21 in the Irrigation Division, Alleppey, 15 in the Minor Irrigation Division, Chengannur, 25 in the Buildings and Roads Division, and 21 in the Offices of the Electricity Board. The Engineers of the Public Health Engineering Department, the P. W. D. and the Kerala Electricity Board have their separate service organisations.

JOURNALISTS

The Journalists also form a significant occupational group, though numerically they form only a small section, As no important

newspapers are published from Alleppey their number is very small when compared to the other Districts of Kerala. The Alleppey branch of the Kerala Union of working Journalists started in 1951 had only 14 members on its rolls in 1965.

PERSONAL SERVICES

The personal services include those rendered by domestic servants cooks, hoteliers, washermen, barbers etc. The total number of persons employed in all these services together come to 32,458 (19,299 males and 13, 159 females) at the Census of 1961. The particulars of the number of persons falling within some distinct groups comprised in the above divisions are given below.

Group	Persons	Male	Female
Services rendered to households by domestic servants, cooks etc.	13,017	4,352	8,665
Services rendered by Hotels, Restaurants, Eating houses etc.	10,747	10,035	712
Laundry Services	5,107	1,565	3,542
Services rendered by barbers, dressing saloons, etc.	2,866	2,741	125

It may be seen from the foregoing figures that women form the predominant group among domestic servants and cooks while men outnumber women among hotel employees. Domestic servants form an unorganised lot but hoteliers have organised themselves in Trade Unions Eg., the Hotel and Tea shop Workers Union, Alleppey. It is also noteworthy that while women form the major group among those who render laundry services men are the dominant group among those who are engaged in the hair dressing services. The available information collected in 1965 in regard to the number of tea shops, laundries and barber shops licensed in the different Municipalities of the District is given below.

	Hotels, Tea shops etc.	Laundries	Barber shops
Alleppey	480	36	48
Tiruvalla	107	2	28
Mavelikara	122	12	30
Shertallai	147	11	24
Kayamkulam ¹	280	9	2

¹ In Kayamkulam town barber shops with one seat and tailoring shops are exempted from licence.

It may also be mentioned here that in the non-Municipal area comprised of the Panchayats in the District there were 6,685 tea shops restaurants etc, 25 laundries and 282 barber shops duly licensed by the Panchayat Committees.

TAILORS

The tailors constitute another occupational class. At the 1961 Census 3,687 persons (3,399 males and 288 females) were returned as tailors, dress-makers and garment makers. Tailoring shops may be seen in all parts of the District. Most of them are owned by individuals who own their own sewing machines and attend to the work themselves. In some of the bigger shops functioning in urban areas like Alleppey there are hired tailors who work on regular wages. In Alleppey town alone there are 173 tailoring shops and Shertallai town 81. According to the information furnished by the District Panchayae Officer, Alleppey, there are 644 tailoring shops functioning in the Panchayat areas.

OTHER OCCUPATIONS

The Census Report of 1961 gives particulars of the number of persons employed in a variety of other occupations too. The details in respect a few such occupations are given below.

	Persons	Male	Female
1 Artists, Writers & related workers	1,041	936	105
2 Musicians & related workers	574	510	64
3 Ordained Religious Workers	1,170	1,079	91
4 Astrologers, Palmists etc.	335	322	13
5 Sales Workers	31,562	29,923	1,639
6 Salesmen, Shop Assistants etc.	8,704	8,260	444
7 Hawkers, Pedlars etc.	4,908	4,522	386
8 Tappers (Palm, Rubber etc.)	3,175	3,169	6
9 Fishermen and Related workers	18,118	16,683	1,435
10 Drivers, Road Transport	3,155	3,155	..
11 Cycle Rickshaw and Rickshaw Pullers	421	421	..
12 Postmen and Messengers	507	507	..
13 Blacksmiths, Hammersmiths etc.	2,603	2,436	167
14 Jewellers, Goldsmiths etc.	2,099	2,083	26
15 Carpenters, Joiners etc.	9,351	9,338	13
16 Sawyers	2,470	2,470	..
17 Compositors, Printers etc.	615	603	12

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

In the Census of 1971 the general population had been broadly divided into two classes viz., workers and non-workers. In the Alleppey District 610,424 persons (407,737 males and 202,687 females) constitute workers and 1,200,828 persons (485,698 males and 715,130 females) constitute non-workers. It may be noted that while 33.31 per cent of the total population of Kerala constitute workers 33.70 per cent of the population of Alleppey District constitute workers. The percentages of non-workers are 66.69 and 66.30 for Kerala State and Alleppey District respectively. Table I gives the total number and percentage of workers engaged in the various industrial categories as well as of non-workers as per the 1961 Census.

TABLE I
CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Industrial category	Total	Male	Female	Percentage of total population
Population	1,811,252	893,435	917,817	100.00
1 As cultivator	109,552	92,182	17,884	6.05
2 As Agricultural Labourer	116,834	60,866	55,968	6.45
3 In mining, Quarrying, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Plantations, Orchards and Allied activities	35,08	33,12	1,981	1.94
4 At Household Industry	104,363	21,703	82,650	5.76
5 In Manufacturing other than Household Industry	56,114	44,077	12,037	3.10
6 In Construction	5,913	5,788	125	0.30
7 In Trade and Commerce	36,434	24,535	1,899	2.01
8 In Transport, Storage and Communications	17,769	17,181	588	0.98

9 In other services	128, 33	98,278	30,055	7,08
10 Total workers	610,424	467,737	202,687	33,70
11 Non-Workers	1,700,828	485,698	715,130	66,30

Table II gives the Taluk-wise figures of classification of population into workers and non-workers in the District as per the Census of 1961.

TABLE II

TALUK-WISE POPULATION INTO WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS

Taluk	Rural Urban Total	Workers		Non-Workers	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Sertallai	Total	70,275	63,352	80,840	94,057
	Rural	66,059	57,252	72,374	84,080
	Urban	6,916	6,100	8,466	9,673
Ambalapuzha	Total	59,619	26,857	75,554	108,607
	Rural	28,514	18,443	36,082	48,164
	Urban	30,505	8,414	39,472	60,443
Kuttanad (No Urban area)	Rural	39,944	19,387	43,740	66,151
Tiruvalla	Total	66,087	17,307	84,469	137,762
	Rural	61,207	15,941	77,599	126,636
	Urban	4,880	1,366	6,870	11,126
Chengannur	Total	44,425	15,312	53,203	85,796
	Rural	40,032	14,120	46,946	75,471
	Urban	4,593	1,192	6,257	10,235
Karthikapally	Total	63,011	34,426	76,429	110,531
	Rural	48,997	29,179	58,445	82,827
	Urban	14,014	5,247	17,984	27,704
Mavelikkara	Total	61,779	26,046	71,463	112,013
	Rural	55,610	23,832	63,402	99,783
	Urban	6,169	2,214	8,061	12,150

GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

PRICES

An examination of the price and wage movements helps to throw light on the measure of the economic prosperity of a people. In recent decades there has been a tendency towards a rise in the

general level of prices—a phenomenon accompanied by short period price fluctuations and differential changes in the prices of particular classes of commodities. A preliminary study of the subject reveals that the prices of essential commodities have been increasing in Travancore since the latter half of the 19th century. Though no statistical information is available in regard to the price levels prevailing in any select centres of this District during this period. Table III taken from the *Travancore State Manual* by Nagam Aiya gives the prices of some important foodgrains in December 1874 as compared with those of December 1904 in Travancore State as a whole.

TABLE III

PRICES OF FOODGRAINS 1874 AND 1904

No.	Name of foodgrains oils & etc.	Prices per Madras * measure in Dec. 1874			Prices per Madras measure in Dec. 1904			Increase or decrease per cent. in prices.
		Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	
1	First class paddy	0	1	3	0	1	1½	-10 per cent
2	Second class paddy	0	1	2	0	1	0	-14.28
3	First class rice	0	2	6	0	2	3	-10
4	Horse gram	0	1	1½	0	1	10	+63
5	Black gram	0	2	1½	0	2	6	+17.4
6	Green peas	0	1	10	0	2	10	+54.5
7	Gingelly	0	3	0	0	3	9	+25
8	Wheat	0	2	0½	0	2	7½	+28
9	Gingelly oil	0	8	9	0	11	11	+36
10	Coconut oil	0	7	5	0	12	3	+65
11	Coconuts per 100	1	10	5	2	3	11	+35.9

It may be seen from the above table that there was a perceptible increase in the prices of all important articles of consumption except paddy and rice during the period 1874-1905. The first World War (1914-18) and the period that followed witnessed a further spurt in the general price level. However, with the onset of the Economic

* As the seer varies for different localities, the measure which is uniform throughout the whole Presidency has been adopted and the calculations made accordingly.

Depression in the early thirties there was a steep fall in the prices of all agricultural commodities- The trends may be illustrated with reference to the price of paddy which is one of the most important agricultural crops of the District. Table IV shows the general price level of paddy in Kuttanad during each of the years from 1920 to 1937.

TABLE IV
PRICE OF PADDY IN KUTTANAD (1920-1937)

Year	Price per standard para *		
	Rs.	Chs.	Cs
1920	1	9	6
1921	0	23	7
1922	0	25	13
1923	0	23	12
1924	0	23	2
1925	0	26	0
1926	0	24	5
1927	0	24	4
1928	0	24	8
1929	0	20	10
1930	0	18	12
1931	0	15	10
1932	0	13	0
1933	0	13	0
1934	0	10	8
1935	0	11	0
1936	0	11	6
1937	0	12	8

16 Cash = 1 Chuckram 28½ Chuckrams = 1 Re

It may be seen from the table that the early thirties which coincided with the period of the world-wide Economic Depression saw a steep fall in the price of paddy in Kuttanad. In addition to the price level of paddy, the fluctuations in the price of Copra from 1925 to 1937 (Vide Table V) would also illustrate the devastating effects of the economic Depression on the general price level

TABLE V
PRICE OF COPRA (1925-37)

Year	Price per candy		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1925	112	10	8
1926	105	2	6
1927	89	14	4
1928	110	12	8
1929	95	3	10
1930	75	8	1
1931	57	8	8
1932	66	0	0
1933	39	0	0
1934	39	0	0
1935	45	0	0
1936	57	0	0
1937	61	0	0

Pepper has also a similar tale to tell. Alleppey pepper which always commanded a higher price in the London market than the pepper from Singapore and other places registered a rapid fall in price in the thirties causing very great financial strain on the cultivators of the pepper vines. Table VI gives the price of pepper from 1929 to 1937.

TABLE VI
PRICE OF PEPPER (1929-37)

Year	Price per candy
	Rs.
1929	600
1930	500
1931	250
1932	140-200
1933	198
1934	134
1935	151
1936	142
1937	120

In spite of the best efforts of the Government to arrest the deteriorating economic condition, the pace of the recovery was slow and it was only War and its aftereffects and the accumulated effects of inflation brought about a steady and steep rise in the general level of prices in the forties. In 1950-51 before the First Five Year Plan was launched, the sharp though short-lived impact of the Korean War boom also manifested itself in increase in commodity prices. Prices of cereals were more than four times higher than those of the pre-war period. Price controls and rationing were introduced with a view to mauling the food deficit and the consequent inflationary pressures. The cease-fire in Korea and the improvement in the world production of wheat and rice and better crop conditions in the country brought about a general decline in the prices in 1952-53. The year 1953-54 and the following year witnessed a recession. To check the fall in price the Government took specific measures, such as progressive decontrol, cutting down of food imports, building up buffer stocks, etc. By 1955-56 the upward trend in total cereal production on account of unfavourable weather conditions. Since 1956 the rise in price level has been steady. It may also be noted that an important factor which contributed to the rise in prices during this period was the increased outlay on the developmental activities initiated under the Five Year Plans. The cost of living index numbers computed for select centres of the District reflect the price level. Table VII gives the working class cost of living index numbers for Alleppey and Shertallai from 1959 onwards.

TABLE VII

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR ALLEPPEY AND
SHERTALLAI

Year	Alleppey	Shertallai
1936 (Base)	100	100
1959	426	NA
1960	439	...
1961	461	...
1962	466	462
1963	492	496
1964	549	552
1965	598	610
1966	668	664

The foregoing table would make it clear that the price level has been steadily increasing in this District in recent years. The rise was most pronounced during the year 1964 when the consumer price index number rose from 495 to 549 at Alleppey and from 496 to 562 at Shertalai. This trend continued unabated in 1965 and 1966. Apart from the general price level as measured by the cost of living index numbers the price situation may also be studied with reference to the fluctuations of the prices of specific commodities. A statement of retail prices for certain important commodities at select centres in the District prepared for this Chapter by the Department of Statistics is given in the table at Appendix I,

We may specially take into consideration the price situation in regard to rice which is the most important consumer goods. In Alleppey as elsewhere in the State the price of rice has registered steady increase in recent years. Rice prices did not, however, show any change during the years 1951-52 to 1953-54. This was due to the control of food grains which was in force since 1942. The control was lifted in July 1954. At the time of the lifting of controls, the Central and State Governments held large stocks of rice. After decontrol, these stocks served to counteract the increase in price. Further, with decontrol the hoarded stocks also came into market. The result was that after decontrol prices were slightly lower. The fall in the all-India production during 1954-55 led to a marked rise in price from 1956-57 onwards. The irregular and insufficient supply from outside the State also accelerated the price rise. Table VIII gives the wholesale price of rice in Alleppey for certain select months during the years 1959 to 1964.

TABLE VIII

WHOLESALE PRICE OF RICE (RS. PER QUINTAL) AT ALLEPPEY
(1960 - 64)

Year	January	April	July	October	November	December
1959	42.10	44.38	51.30	45.80	48.00	44.00
1960	55.89	57.84	62.61	65.33	68.05	63.95
1961	61.92	63.96	68.90	70.98	68.04	69.40
1962	68.38	62.70	65.49	68.75	65.03	61.22
1963	61.22	59.86	62.24	66.41	68.81	70.24
1964	67.31	73.89	75.37	NA	NA	NA

The year 1964 saw a real crisis in regard to price situation of rice in Kerala. There was a persistent rise in rice prices during the year. Though there was a declining tendency in the price of rice during the harvesting season, it again rose during the subsequent months. Further, consequent on the fixation of prices of rice in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Madras, rice stockists hoarded their stocks and they were unwilling to dispose them of at the rates fixed by the Government. The food problem became rather acute and there was practically no transaction in the open market, either at the wholesale or retail level, during a short period. The situation became so critical that the Central and State Governments took the necessary steps by the beginning of the last quarter of the year to ease the position. Informal rationing system was introduced in urban areas from 1st November, 1964 and from 15th of same month in rural parts. Informal rationing was replaced by statutory rationing with effect from October 24, 1965.

Table IX also gives the wholesale price of some important commodities like copra, pepper, ginger, arecanut and coconut at Alleppey for each of the years from 1960 to 1964.

TABLE IX

WHOLESALE PRICES OF SELECT COMMODITIES AT ALLEPPEY
FROM 1963 TO 1964 (PRICE IN RS. PER QUINTAL)

Commodity	Variety	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Copra	Sundried	163.84	160.23	180.31	191.43	184.90
Coconut *		22.12	22.29	24.66	25.80	24.66
Arecanut *	Kizh-ken	3.13	2.97	3.30	2.49	3.14
Pepper	Palai	508.46	372.81	292.89	268.13	319.02
Ginger	Dry	152.60	124.84	174.54	214.35	346.16

* Price per 100

It may be relevant in this context to make a few observations on the behaviour of the price of the above commodities in recent years. The price of coconut and coconut products like copra in Kerala depends largely on the markets in India as a whole. Every year India imports several crores worth of coconut and coconut products. The imports are from Ceylon. The prices of coconut and coconut products in Ceylon are cheaper than those in Kerala. During the period 1951-52 to 1955-56 the price of coconut and coconut products recorded a fall due to increased competition from Ceylon.

However, the imports from Ceylon declined since 1958 as a result of import restrictions in India. The prices of coconut and coconut products, therefore, went up and this was reflected in the price of coconut in Kerala.

The price rise is more pronounced in the case of areca nut. The price has nearly doubled during the decade 1951-61. This was mainly due to the increase in demand outside Kerala and import restrictions.

The price of pepper in the world market followed a downward trend after the boom that followed the Korean War. This resulted in a fall in production. The main reason for the fall in production and prices has been reduced off-take by the traditional buyers like the U.K. and the U.S.A. The slump in the prices was temporarily arrested towards the middle of 1958. The main contributory factors for the rise in prices since 1958-59 were shortfall and damage in the production of other competing countries, fresh purchases from the Communist countries and renewed enquiries from U.S.A. Unbridled speculative activities caused unreasonable rise in prices in 1959-60 and 1960-61 and this undue rise in prices reduced the chances of expanding the exports. This resulted in a fall in the price in 1961-62 and subsequent years.

The price of ginger recorded a fall in the fifties. This was mainly due to the fall in the volume of export. The main factors for the decline in exports were import restrictions in West Asian countries, increasing competition from other producing countries and change in consumer's preference. The Suez crisis very badly affected the ginger trade as Middle East is its most important market. This gave rise to a serious set back in 1957-58. The year 1959-60 witnessed a rise in the price. This rise was mainly due to a shortage in supply relative to demand. Thereafter, the prices fluctuated with changes in demand and competition from other producing countries. In 1954 the price of ginger was more than double that of 1960.

WAGES

More than two centuries ago, labour was supplied in Travancore by slaves or serfs attached to the soil. About 1850 the price of a slave in Travancore was on the average between Rs. 6 to Rs. 10. The slave had to toil from morn until evening and keep watch over the fields by night. Though the self-interest of the owners gave

an incentive to them to treat the slaves with kindness as understood at the time, this class of field-labourers were regarded as chattels and sold with the land and delivered over in execution of decrees. Predial slavery was abolished in the State in 1855. Rev Samuel Mateer writing in 1871 makes the following observation about the position of labour in Travancore in the latter half of the 19th century - "Considerable activity in industrial and commercial pursuits, elementary arts and agriculture, prevails in Travancore so that a large proportion -- of the people are usefully occupied in various forms of productive labour. All the ordinary occupations essential to civilised life are carried on, often in a style very primitive and different from that of European workmen, but still practically efficient according to native ideas. The price of labour both skilled and unskilled and indeed of every commodity has largely increased within the last twelve years. Whether this is owing to enlarged intercourse with other parts of India, or the abolition of slavery and the spread of education and civilisation to the emigration of many of the shanars to Ceylon and the Mauritius to the introduction of coffee planting, the building of bridges and other important public works which bring labour more into demand and consequently increase its value, or to other less obvious causes, producing a slow but general equalisation of the value of money throughout the world, it is not easy to say. But the wage of day labourers, which in 1868 were, in rural districts 2 chuckrams a day have by degrees risen to a minimum of 5 chuckrams (4½ d.), while even more is paid to labourers on the coffee plantations. The prices of rice, meat, cloth and other necessary articles have also doubled at least within the same period' 11

Agricultural wages have as a rule been governed by custom. Till 1860 the wages of every creed and class were exceedingly low; However gradually, there was a rise in the level of wages. Table X gives the statement of Daily Wages of Agricultural labourers in six Taluks of the District, viz, Karthikappally, Mavelikkara Chennannur, Tiruvalla, Ambalapuzha and Shertallal during the period 1880 to 1895

1 The Land of Charity, Rev, S. Mateer, p. 104,

TABLE X

DAILY WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

No.	Taluk	As.	Ps.	As.	Ps.	As.	Ps.
1	Karthikapilly	3	0	3	0	3	0
2	Mavelikkara	2	0	2	0	3	0
3	Chengennur	3	6	3	6	3	6
4	Tiruvalla	4	0	4	0	4	0
5	Ambalapuzha	3	0	3	0	3	0
6	Sherattalai	2	0	2	10	3	6

In several cases, particularly in the case of agricultural labour, the wages were paid in kind. Early in this century the wages for reaping one para of paddy of wet land varied from 10½ to 12 *edangazhis* of paddy in Travancore. For transplanting, the wages were two to four *chuckrams* per day; for winnowing paddy the rate was one *edangazhi* and for pounding it into rice two *nazhis* for every para. These items of work were attended to by females. Ordinary day labourers got four to six *chuckrams* per day in the rural areas and seven to nine *chuckrams* in the urban areas. Mason's wages in the country part varied from six annas to one Rupee while they got 8 annas to Rs. 1 and 4 as. in towns per day. The wages of a carpenter in town varied from half a Rupee to two Rupees and in rural areas from four annas to twelve annas. A blacksmith used to earn half to two Rupees per day and a goldsmith ½ to 3 Rupees a day.

The wages of labourers continued to increase in the early decades of this century. In Alleppey according to the 1931 census skilled male labourers used to earn 12 annas to Rs 1½ per day, an unskilled labourer 8 annas and skilled female labourers six to 12 annas per day. The wages prevalent in two important industries of the District viz., Coir and Oil Milling are given below:—

Industry	Daily wages in Chuckrams	
Coir mat and matting Factory	Men	21
	Women	12
	Boys	10½
	Girls	9½
Oil Mills	Men	15½

The Economic Depression of the early thirties brought about a fall in the wage level. But wages rose again with the outbreak of the World War in 1939. In the meantime the rise of the trade union movement also helped to bring about the rise in the wage level. In recent times there has been a steady increase in the wages of all classes of workers in the District—agricultural as well as non-agricultural. A statement of the prevailing rates of wages for agricultural operations and some other employments in Alleppey District in 1965 is given in Table X 1.

TABLE X1

PREVAILING RATES OF WAGES IN CERTAIN SELECT EMPLOYMENTS, 1967

Agricultural Operations

	Men	Women
Ordinary Mazdor	Rs. 2.50 to 3.50	Rs. 1 to 1.75
Ploughing	Rs. 4 to 7	(Including the charge for bullocks)
Harvesting	1 bushel for every 8 bushels of paddy	
Re-planting & Weeding	Rs. 1.50 for 6 hours work (for females)	

N. B. There will be a slight increase in wages in all Agricultural Operations during growing especially in Sugar Canes cutting seasons-

Coconut plucking	6 coconuts for every 100 coconuts
Toddy Tapping	17 ps. per 24 oz. bottle of toddy

Building Operations

Carpenters	Rs. 3 to 5 per day
Brick masons	Rs. 5 to 5 per day

Other Operations (Non-Agricultural)

Husk beating	31 pies per 100 husks
Saw Mills	Rs. 2.50 to 3.50 per day
Oil Mills	Rs. 2.50 to 3 per day.

The Government of India have selected Pulimgunnu (Kottanad Taluk) and Pennukara Vadakku (Chengannur Taluk) for regular collection of data on agricultural wages in this District. A statement of wages in these centres for the period 1960-65 is given at Appendix II to this Chapter. It is also worth mentioning that the Government

have fixed the minimum wages for agricultural operations under the Minimum Wages Act 1948. The details are given in Table XII,

TABLE XII
MINIMUM WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

A. Minimum time rates for an eight hour day,		Rs.
1	Ordinary Agricultural operations	
1	Men	1.50
2	Women	1.00
2	Preparing pits of bunds for planting coconuts (excepting in sandy tracts)	1.52
3	Digging or ploughing and preparing mounds ridges or basins for tapioca or sugar cultivation (excepting in sandy tracts)	1 63
B,	Minimum piece -rates for plucking of coconuts	
	Per coconut tree	0.04
		Plus one-coconut for every 25 trees or part thereof,
C.	Ploughing	
1.	Ploughing with labourers' bullocks	2.75
		for a four hour working day.
2	Ploughing with cultivators bullocks	1.50
		for a four hour working day
3	Transplanting operation- The minimum wages shall be the same as per any ordinary labour but the working hours shall be five for Kayal areas and six for other areas.	
N B.	The hours of work fixed above are hours of actual work (i. e. excluding time spent in assembling proceeding to the work-spot and returning, rest periods etc.)	
4	Harvesting and threshing—1/9 of the harvested paddy in addition to the customary payment called 'theerpu' or 'Vellamkudi'. Workers shall be entitled to remuneration for carrying Katta' if threshing ground is not provided at the rate of one for every 2,000 paras of paddy field.	

- D. If the existing rates for all or any of the above agricultural operations are higher than the rates notified above, the higher rates will continue to be paid.

In addition, minimum wages have been fixed in several other scheduled establishments under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. A statement of the minimum wages in respect of a few is given in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII

STATEMENT OF MINIMUM WAGES IN RESPECT OF SOME SELECT EMPLOYMENTS

A. Employment in rice mills, flour mills and dhall mills.		
1	Driver	Rs. 2.87 per day
2	Hullerman (semi-skilled)	Rs. 2.50 per day
3	Yard workers and attendants in the boiling and milling sections:—	
	a) Men	Rs. 2.19 per day
	b) Women	Rs. 1.60 per day
B. Contingent Employees of Panchayats		
1	Scavenger	Rs. 62.00 per month
2	Sweeper	Rs. 62.00 „
3	Sanitary Mazdoor	Rs. 62.00 „
4	All other unskilled workers Employed in Panchayats	Rs. 52.00 „
C. Employment on the construction or maintenance of Roads or in Building operations.		
1	Brick Masons	Rs. 3.85 per day
2	Rubble Mason	Rs. 3.85 „
3	Laterite Mason	Rs. 3.85 „
4	Laterite cutter	Rs. 3.30 „
5	Brick moulder	Rs. 3.03 „
6	Carpenter	Rs. 3.30 „
7	Blacksmith	Rs. 3.85 „
8	Fitter	Rs. 3.30 „
9	Painter	Rs. 3.30 „
10	Sawyer	Rs. 3.85 „
11	Plumber	Rs. 3.30 „

12	Wood cutter	Rs. 3.03	„
13	Boatman	Rs. 2.48	„
14	Malkad or unskilled workers:		
	a) Man (Special unskilled)	Rs. 2.75	„
	b) Man (Ordinary unskilled)	Rs. 2.20	„
	c) Woman (Ordinary unskilled)	Rs. 1.65	„
	d) Adolescent (Ordinary unskilled)	Rs. 1.38	„
D.	Printing Presses		
I	Unskilled Workers		
	1 Cleaner	} Rs. 40.00 per month	
	2 Sweeper		
	3 Peon		
	4 Watchmen		
	5 Mazdoor		
II	Skilled Workers		
	All other workers than those specified as unskilled or as apprentices	Rs. 45.00 per month	
III	Apprentices	Rs. 20.00 per month	
E.	Timber Industry		
	Men or woman doing identical works	Rs. 1.78 per day	
	Man	Rs. 1.87	„
	Woman	1.40	„
F.	Toddy Tapping		
	Piece rates for a bottle of coconut toddy (24 ounces) produced and measured out to the contractor in		
	Karthikappally, Mavelikkara, Kuttanad, Shertailai, Ambalapuzha Taluks (excluding Alleppey Municipality)	50 ps. per bottle	
	Alleppey Municipality, Tiruvalla Taluk, Chengannur	60 ps. per bottle	
G.	Oil Mills		
	Category of Workers	Daily wages	
	Unskilled	Rs.	
1	Yard worker	1.75 per day	
2	Yard Moopan	2.19	„
3	Fillers	1.75	„
4	Cuttermen	1.75	„
5	Olter	1.75	„
6	Bellowman (Blower)	1.75	„
7	Heavy Head Load workers attached to mills	2.00	„

Semi Skilled		Rs.		
1	Chuck worker	1.87		
2	Cuttermen also doing the work of carrying copra to the cutter and removing punnac	1.87 „		
3	Chuck edamooan	2.12 „		
4	Cooper	2.12 „		
5	Tinker, if attached to mills	2.00 „		
A. Skilled				
1	Engine Driver	2.50 „		
2	Blacksmith	2.50 „		
3	Electrician (qualified)	2.50 „		
4	Latheman (Turner)	2.50 „		
5	Chuck moopan	2.31 „		
B. Boat Transport				
Licensed crew	Basic pay per mensem	Dearness allowance per mensem	Batta	
1	Serang	35	25	one anna six pies per running hour
2	Driver	35	25	do
3	Boat Master	35	25	do
Unlicensed crew				
4	Lascars	20	22	do

The Minimum rates of wages payable to the employees employed in the processing and baling operations in the Coir industry are given at Appendix III to this Chapter,

STANDARD OF LIVING

The studies into the pattern of family income and expenditure undertaken at different periods serve to give us an insight into the standard of living of a people. The *Travancore Banking Enquiry committee Report* (1930) throws light on the economic condition of the people of the village of Kodenthurthu kara, seven miles north of Sbertalial. The findings of the Committee in respect of this Village which may be taken as representative of the District are summarised below. The total wealth of this village which had then a population of 3169 persons is shown in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV

TOTAL WEALTH OF THE VILLAGE

Particulars	Value (Rs.)
Cattle	5,875
Agricultural holdings	11,69,175
House property	1,14,160
Gold and silver	29,004
Utensils	23,416
Investments in banks	40,176
Lent to others	87,871
Other assets	3,66,880
Total	18,36,561

It may be seen that the average wealth per head was Rs. 474 and per family, Rs. 2,616. The total income from agriculture per annum was Rs. 72,112 and from other sources Rs. 77,458 making up a total of Rs. 1,49,750. The annual income per head comes to Rs. 33 and per family Rs. 215.

The total annual income and expenditure of six typical families in this village as per the findings of the Committee are shown in Table XV.

TABLE XV

ANNUAL INCOME AND FAMILY BUDGETS OF SIX TYPICAL FAMILIES

Agriculturists	Family in comfort	Family below comfort
No. of members	15	3
Total income	Rs. 971	Rs. 168 (Rs. 50 borrowed)
Total expenditure	Rs. 240	Rs. 161
<i>Artisans</i>		
No. of members	8	4
Total income	Rs. 297	Rs. 126
Total expenditure	Rs. 297	Rs. 117
<i>Trades</i>		
No. of members	7	5
Total income	Rs. 480	Rs. 270
Total expenditure	Rs. 438	Rs. 267

COST OF LIVING INDEX SURVEYS 1946 AND 1951

A family budget survey was conducted in June 1946 by the Bureau of Statistics, Travancore University, on behalf of the Travancore Government in 7 select towns of erstwhile Travancore State. Alleppey was one of the towns covered by the survey. The purpose of the survey was to collect basic data for the periodical compilation of the cost of living indices in select towns. Similar surveys were conducted by the Division of Statistics, Travancore University, in a few more selected centres in Travancore-Cochin State in 1951. The centres covered by the new survey in Alleppey District were Tiruvalla, Kayamkulam, Pulinkunnu, and Shertallai. The economic life of the people in these centres was studied with reference to the following aspects, (i) Distribution of families in broad expenditure groups (2) Composition of family (3) Family budgets (4) Particulars of commodities and average quantities of of articles consumed per month in the family and (5) Cost of living index.

As returns relating to total income for each family were not considered reliable, a division of families in the economic strata was made according to the monthly expenditure in the family. Table XVI gives the percentage distribution of families in the above centre according to the typical monthly expenditure.

TABLE XVI

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FAMILIES ACCORDING TO THE EXPENDITURE GROUPS

Centres	Total No of families	Expenditure in rupees per month						
		Leas	50	100	150	250	350	Average
		than 50	to 100	to 150	to 250	to 350	to 500	
Alleppey	1,751	1	27	32	29	8	3	155
Tiruvalla	1,050	5	36	28	25	5	1	133
Kayamkulam	998	11	42	26	14	5	2	120
Pulikunnu	1,025	6	57	22	11	2	2	105
Shertallai	1,000	6	35	27	20	7	5	145

It may be seen that in all the five centres families with an expenditure above Rs. 250 formed only a very small percentage. the largest number of families coming within the expenditure groups Rs. 50 to 100 and Rs. 100 to 150.

As the standard of living of a family depends to some extent on its composition it would be interesting to have an idea of the average size of the family expressed in terms of adult equivalents in broad expenditure groups in respect of each of the four centres. Table XVII conveys this information.

TABLE XVII

AVERAGE SIZE OF FAMILY IN TERMS OF ADULT EQUIVALENTS IN BROAD EXPENDITURE GROUPS

Centres	Expenditure in rupees per month						Average size
	Below Rs. 50	50 to 100	100 to 150	150 to 250	250 to 350	350 to 500	
Alleppey	2.82	3.85	5.10	6.70	7.99	9.54	5.57
Tiruvalla	2.77	4.53	5.61	6.38	7.38	9.84	5.37
Kayamkulam	3.11	5.32	6.18	6.72	7.51	6.65	6.62
Puliokunnu	2.52	4.32	6.41	6.47	6.95	6.43	5.04
Shertallai	2.59	3.99	5.32	6.17	6.79	3.30	5.07

It is significant that the average size of the families showed a tendency to increase along with the increase in total expenditure in respect of all the five centres. The tables in Appendix IV give details of family expenditure under major items for the respective expenditure groups in all the five centres.

Table XVIII gives the percentage of expenditure in the five centres in broad expenditure groups according to the items of expenditure.

TABLE XVIII

Percentage distribution of the total expenditure according to the items of expenditure

Centres	Expendi- ture group	Food	Cloth- ing	Housing	Pansuparl	Miscella-
				Light- Fuel	Recreation Medical Education	neous.
Alleppey	Below Rs. 50	62.8	5.2	13.4	4.7	13.9
	50-100	63.4	5.8	12.2	5.9	12.7
	100-150	63.8	5.8	11.3	5.8	13.3
	150-250	63.4	6.4	10.5	6.5	13.3
	250-350	53.2	7.1	11.5	5.9	17.8
	350-500	55.6	6.6	12.6	4.6	20.6

Tiruvalla Below Rs. 50	70.1	6.6	12.0	3.0	8.0
50-100	69.4	7.7	10.6	3.3	9.0
100-150	67.2	7.8	11.5	3.1	10.4
150-250	65.1	7.6	12.9	2.6	11.8
250-350	64.3	7.5	12.6	2.5	24.8
350-500	68.8	7.7	15.6	2.1	18.8
Kayamkulam					
Below Rs. 50	66.4	6.0	10.0	4.5	13.0
50-100	65.5	5.3	9.1	4.8	14.3
100-150	64.5	6.6	8.9	4.3	16.3
150-250	61.9	6.2	10.6	3.2	15.1
250-350	57.7	6.1	8.9	2.5	24.8
350-200	56.4	6.0	10.8	1.3	25.0
Pulinkunnu					
Below Rs. 50	67.1	5.7	14.7	4.3	8.2
50-100	68.6	6.2	11.2	3.6	10.4
100-150	67.2	6.4	11.0	5.4	12.0
150-250	66.5	6.0	14.1	2.7	10.7
250-350	65.3	7.0	12.4	1.8	13.0
350-500	56.4	7.2	13.8	1.8	20.8
Shertallai Below Rs. 50					
50-100	62.4	6.0	17.6	6.1	8.9
100-150	63.4	6.7	11.6	4.4	13.8
150-250	62.2	6.7	10.3	3.7	17.1
250-350	71.5	6.8	10.2	2.6	18.9
350-500	57.7	6.4	10.7	1.9	23.3
	55.9	5.9	10.1	1.9	26.2

The tables given in Appendix V give the average quantities of the various commodities consumed per month in the family according to the expenditure groups in all the centres.

Table XIX gives the cost of living index for the period of June 1946 for Alleppey and February 1951 for Tiruvalla, Kayamkulam, Pulinkunnu and Shertallai in respect of the different expenditure groups.

TABLE XIX

Cost of Living Index for Expenditure Groups

(Rupees per mensem)

Centres	Below 50	50-100	100-150	150-250	250-350	350-500	Average
Alleppey	323	310	295	265	272	252	288
Tiruvalla	367	353	331	318	306	278	336
Kayamkulam	398	389	364	319	283	261	366
Pulinkunnu	344	325	314	328	309	357	328
Shertallai	347	304	251	269	247	236	286

RURAL CREDIT SURVEY (1951-52)

In 1951-52 a Rural Credit Survey was conducted in 8 villages in the erstwhile Quilon District by the Reserve Bank of India as part of the All India Rural Credit Survey. These included the villages of Kanikkad (Karthikapally Taluk), Pathiyoor (Karthikapally Taluk), Valamangalam South (Karthikapally Taluk), and Kurichimuttom (Tiruvalla Taluk) in the present Alleppey District. Field investigations were conducted in these selected villages by adopting the stratified random sampling method. All the families in each of these villages were covered by the General Schedule adopted for the survey which covered such items of expenditure as construction and repairs to residential houses, durable consumer goods, death, marriage and other ceremonies, sickness, education and litigation and did not include current consumption items such as food stuffs and entertainments. This was supplemented by an intensive enquiry confined to a small sub-sample of 15 cultivating families in each of these selected villages.¹ The data on important items of family expenditure incurred during the 12 months preceding the month of investigation were collected from all families in the villages. Table gives the data relating to average expenditure per cultivating family collected at the survey.

-
- 1 All the cultivating families in the villages surveyed were arranged in the descending order of the size of their cultivated holdings and divided into four groups, viz., big, large, medium and small. The first 10 per cent of the families formed the first group the second 20 per cent the second group the middle 40 per cent the third group and the last 30 per cent the 4th group. Two families were selected for the random survey from the first group, 4 from the 2nd group 6 from the third group and 3 from the 4th group.

TABLE XX

FAMILY EXPENDITURE ON THE RECORDED ITEMS

(General Schedule data. Amount in Rs. per cultivating family)

Item	Proportion of families reporting expenditure (per cent)	Average expenditure per family	Proportion of expenditure on the item to the total expenditure on recorded items (per cent)	Average expenditure per reporting family
1 Construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings	93.8	111	27	119
2 Purchase of household utensils furniture etc.,	25.5	9	2	36
3 Purchase of clothing, shoes, bedding etc.,	99.6	65	16	65
4 Death ceremonies	13.6	9	2	65
5 Marriage and other ceremonies	42.5	81	20	189
6 Medical expenses	78.5	67	16	85
7 Educational expenses	1.6	58	12	94
8 Litigation charges	14.8	19	5	130
Total	100.0	410	100	410

Table XXI shows the family expenditure on recorded items compared with the pattern of all-India expenditure.

TABLE XXI

RECORDED ITEMS OF FAMILY EXPENDITURE

(General Schedule data. Amount in Rs. per cultivating family)

Item	India		District	
	Proportion of families reporting this expenditure (Per cent)	Average expenditure per family	Proportion of families reporting this expenditure (Per cent)	Average expenditure per family
1 Construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings	39.8	61	93.8	111

2	Purchase of household utensils, furniture etc.,	26.1	9	25.5	9
3	Purchase of clothing, shoes, bedding etc.	97.5	132	99.6	55
4	Death ceremonies	10.4	13	13.6	9
5	Marriage and other ceremonies	30.0	86	42.5	81
6	Medical expenses	32.3	26	78.5	67
7	Educational expenses	18.3	18	51.6	48
8	Litigation charges	6.4	16	14.8	19

The above tables reveal that the pattern of family expenditure in the District was different from that in almost all other parts of India. These variations are due to the special conditions prevailing here. The District is located in the high rainfall zone of the west coast and its climate calls for smaller expenditure on clothes and higher expenditure on maintenance and repairs of houses. The high standard of education in the area also accounts for the variations in the pattern of expenditure. The average family expenditure was found to vary between cultivators and non-cultivators as well as from village to village. In the Alleppey District, it was the highest at Rs. 560 Valamangalam South and the lowest at Rs. 403 in Kanjurkottakkakom in the case of cultivator; Table XXII gives the total expenditure on recorded items of family expenditure in the five villages.

TABLE XXII

Total Expenditure on Recorded items of family Expenditure
(General Schedule data)

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FAMILY IN RUPEES

Village	Cultivators	Non-Cultivators	All Families
Kallikkad	514	178	326
Pathiyoor	424	145	336
Valamangalam South	560	111	334
Kanjurkottakkakom	403	87	278
Kurichimuttom	472	93	371

The expenditure on construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings reflects to some extent the level of the standard of living of a people. The proportion of cultivating families reporting expenditure on this item was more than 90 per cent in all the five villages the proportion being as high as 99.1 per cent in Kurichimuttom. Average expenditure per cultivating family

on this item varied from Rs. 97 in Kanjuskottakkakom to Rs. 168 in Kallikkad. Table XXIII shows the expenditure on construction and repairs of residential houses and other buildings in the five villages,

TABLE XXIII

Expenditure on construction and Repairs of residential houses and other buildings

(General Schedule data)

Village	Proportion of families reporting expenditure (Per cent)	Expenditure per family.	Expenditure per report- ing family
Kallikkad	96.4	168	174
Pathiyoor	96.5	106	116
Va'amangalam South	96.2	125	130
Kanjurkottakkakom	95.4	67	122
Kurich muttom	99.1	122	123

As for other items of expenditure, it may be noted that about 26 per cent of the total number of cultivating families reported expenditure on purchase of household utensils, furniture etc., while almost all the cultivating families reported expenditure on purchase of clothing, shoes bedding etc. The average expenditure on the former item varied from Rs. 3 in the case of small cultivators to Rs. 40 in the case of big cultivators while the average expenditure on the latter item ranged from Rs. 36 in the case of small cultivators. Moreover, less than 5 per cent of the total expenditure on specified items of family expenditure was on death ceremonies while about 20 per cent of the total expenditure was on marriages and other ceremonies. It is also significant that medical expenses educational expenses and litigation charges also claimed their share of family expenditure. The expenditure reported by big cultivators on medicine was 4 times, on litigation 11 times, and on education 33 times the expenditure reported by the small cultivators.

A SURVEY OF THE ECONOMY OF THE FISHERFOLK (1954)

The findings of the survey of the economy of the fisherfolk in the villages of Purakkad and Arathinkal conducted in 1954 by the Travancore-Cochin Economic Research Council help to throw light on the standard of living of one of the less privileged sections of the community in the District. They are briefly summarised below,

Most of the households in Purakkad village earned something between Rs. 20 and Rs. 30 per fortnight on an average. This is evident from the fact that out of the 70 households which were brought under study, only 22 had incomes in this range. They represented 32.4% of the total number of households. The next most frequent income group was Rs. 10-20 in which there were 11 households. There were two households getting even less, i. e., in the income range Rs. 5-10. As for the higher income brackets, it is seen that 10 households fell in the class Rs. 30-40, 9 in the group Rs. 40-50 and 7 in the income range Rs. 50-60. There were 9 households in the ranges above Rs. 60-75. Thus only 13% of the households had incomes above Rs. 60 per fortnight. Of these, 2 were in the range Rs. 60-75, 2 in the range Rs. 7-100, and in the highest income group viz., Rs. 100 or more. On examination of the aggregate income earned by the 70 households on an average during one fortnight, it is found that with a total income of Rs. 2,933, each family on an average, made Rs. 42 per fortnight.

The expenditure of the households out-ran the income by a substantial margin. On an average the expenditure was about 33% more than the income every fortnight for the village as a whole. 67 households out of the total of 70 showed some amount of deficit in their budgets. Thus only a little less than 5% of the households could balance their budgets. Of the households with deficits, 3 had deficits less than 10% of their average income. Of the remaining, 26 had deficits between 10-25% of the incomes and 29 showed deficits between 25-50% of their incomes. Of the remaining heavy deficit households 8 were in the deficit class of 50-100% of income and 1 in the group of deficit more than 100% of the average fortnightly income.

Turning to the pattern of expenditure in Purakkad village, it was observed that 22 households were in the expenditure group of Rs. 20-30. This represented 31.4% of the total number of households. There were only 3 households in groups less than Rs. 20-30. Of these 2 were in the group Rs. 10-20 and 1 in the group Rs. 5-10. Of the nearly 65% households in the expenditure groups above Rs. 20-30, 14 were in the group Rs. 30-40 representing 20% of the total number of households in the village. About 9% of the households fell in the expenditure group Rs. 40-50 while the same number fell in the next higher group of Rs. 50-60, and 7 households, i. e., 10% of the total number, were in the expenditure group Rs. 60-75.

followed by another 5 houses (7.1%) in the group Rs. 75-100. There were 7 households in the highest expenditure group of Rs. 100 and more,

The bulk of the households in Parakkad i. e. 53% spent only less than 50% of their total outlay on items of food. The large majority of households spent between Rs. 10-20 per fortnight on an average on food. There were 36 households of this type representing 51.4% of the total. There was only 1 household which spent less than Rs. 5 during a fortnight on food. 2 households used to spend between Rs. 5-10. In the food expenditure group Rs. 20-30 there were 16 households, which was 22.9% of the total number of households. Of the remaining 16 households, 12 (17.1% of the total) spent between Rs. 30-50 on items of food, 2 households were in the food expenditure group of Rs. 50-75, while there was 1 household which used to spend more than Rs. 100 per fortnight on an average for food.

Most of the households could contribute only less than 3% of their total expenditure by way of home produced food. There were 65 households in this group representing 25.3% of the total number of households and the remaining 4 households got only between 5-10% of their total expenditure by way of home - produced food. A large majority of households spent only a limited amount on pulses, vegetables and condiments.

Examining the outlay on items other than food, it is seen that 43% of the households spent less than 5% of the total outlay on items of clothing while 49% of spent between 5-10%. The remaining 8% of the households spent between 10-25% of their total outlay on these items. In terms of absolute figures it is seen that 20% of the households spent less than Rs. 1 per fortnight on clothing, while 30 households (42.9%) spent between Rs. 1-3. 21.4% of the households were in the range of spending Rs. 3-5 followed by 8 households (11.4%) between Rs. 5-10. 2 households (2.9%) between Rs. 10-25 and 1 household spending between Rs. 25-50 on clothing per fortnight on an average.

Turning to miscellaneous items it is found that in Parakkad, 60% of the households spent only less than Rs. 5 per fortnight on these items. 15 households (21.4%) spent between Rs. 5-10. 6 between Rs. 10-20, 3 between Rs. 20-30 and 1 each in the groups Rs. 30-50 and Rs. 50-75. The remaining 2 households spent more

than Rs. 100 on an average during a fortnight on miscellaneous items. These two households were found to be households in the highest income groups also.

Fifty-five households which were studied in Arathinkal village revealed that the average income per household was Rs. 30.5 per fortnight. This was worked out from a total income figure for the households of Rs. 1,878. At the same time there was a total consumer expenditure of Rs. 2,687 giving an average of Rs. 38.9 per household. This showed a budget gap of nearly 60%.

Detailed examination of income and expenditure distribution in this village gave the following results. 14 households representing 25.5% of the total number earned on an average during a fortnight only between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20. 20 households (35.4%) earned between Rs. 20-30 per fortnight. Thus nearly 61% of the households in this village had an income of less than Rs. 30 per fortnight. The rest of the households were distributed in the following manner. 15 households (27.3%) were in the Rs. 30-40 income group, 2 each in the groups Rs. 40-50 and Rs. 60-75 and 1 each in the income groups Rs. 50-60 and more than Rs. 100.

The households in this village faced serious budget deficits. All except one of the 55 households were on the deficit side. Of these 54 households, 7.4% had deficits equivalent to between 10-25% of their incomes. 8 households (14.6%) showed deficits to the extent of 25-50% of their fortnightly incomes. The vast majority of households, about 65%, among those having deficits ranging between 50-100% of their incomes. There was a substantial number of households (7) which showed very heavy deficits in the range of more than 100% of their current incomes.

The patterns of expenditure shows that most of the households spent between Rs. 30-40 a fortnight on the average. This class represented 34.5% of the total number of households. There were 6 households (10.9%) which spent less than this i.e., between Rs. 20-30. One fifth of the households at the same time were spending between Rs. 46 and 50 and 14.6% were spending between Rs. 50-60. In the expenditure groups above this there were 4 households in the group Rs. 60-75, 4 in the group Rs. 75-100 and 3 households in the highest group Rs. 100 and above. It is seen that out of the three households in the highest expenditure group only one had income in the same range. The other two households were in the

income group Rs. 30-40 and had this level of expenditure mainly due to unforeseen expenditure on account of ceremonials.

Most of the households in Arathinkal spent between 50-75% of their total outlay on food. There were 44 household of this per representing 80% of the total number. Most of the households spent between Rs 10-20 on food per fortnight on the averages. There were 23 households of this type (41.8% of the total). The next largest number of households fell in the food expenditure group of Rs. 20-30 and included 30.9% of the total. 10 households representing 21.8% of the total number of households fell in the food expenditure group Rs. 30-50 while the remaining 3 household were seen in the group Rs. 50-75.

Home produced food played a significant part in their consumption to the extent of between 5-10 percent of the total outlay in the case of 42 households (76.4%). One household obtained food from this source to the extent of less than 5% of the total outlay on foods and services. 11 households (20%) consumed food produced at home to the value of between 10-15% of their total expenditure. There was 1 household in the percentage range of 15-20. The outlay on pulses vegetable and condiments in this village was distributed as follows. 58% of the households spent less than 5% of their total outlay on these items; the rest spent 5-10%.

As for the outlay on clothing and miscellaneous items of expenditure, 78% of the households spent less than 5% of their total outlay on clothing while the remaining 22% spent between 5-10% of the total. 35% of the households spent less than 5%, 44% between 5-13, 18% between 10 and 25 and 3% of the households above 25% of their total expenditure on miscellaneous items. In terms of money outlay, it is seen that in Arathinkal, about 26% of the households spent less than Re 1 on clothing during a fortnight on an average. The largest percentage of households (58.2) spent between Rs.1-3 on clothing during the same period. There were 9 other households under study in this village and of these, 7 spent between Rs. 3 and 5 on an average during a fortnight on clothing. The remaining 2 households were seen to spent between Rs. 5-10 on clothing during a fortnight.

Most of the households (78.2%) spent less than Rs. 5 per fortnight on miscellaneous items. The rest (12.7% of the total)

spent between Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 on miscellaneous items, 3 spent between Rs. 10-20 and 2 between Rs. 30-50.

FAMILY BUDGETS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

In order to have a picture of the standard of living of the people living in the rural areas of the District, we may also rely on the findings of the sample survey of the family budgets of agricultural workers conducted by the Statistics Department for the state in three selected villages in Alleppey District at the instance of the Minimum wages committee for Employment in Agriculture constituted by the Government of Travancore Cochin in 1953. Enquiries were conducted in the villages Kainakari (Kuttanai Taluk) Eraviperoor (Thiruvalla Taluk) and Pallipuram (Shertalai Taluk).

Table XXIV shows the average distribution of percentage of expenditure per family per year in these villages.

TABLE XXIV
Average distribution and percentage of expenditure per family per year

No. of Gards analysed	Kainakari		Eraviperoor		Palipuram	
	200		100		109	
Items	Amount Rs.	%	Amount Rs.	%	Amount Rs.	%
Food	329.7	64.4	237.9	59.9	339.0	69.5
Rent	...	...	0.9	0.3	...	...
Ltght and Fuel	33.2	5.7	10.0	2.8	31.4	5.5
Pansuparl	27.0	4.4	17.1	4.7	26.9	4.7
Clothing	33.7	6.7	32.1	8.8	32.7	5.7
Miscellaneous	99.5	18.9	85.4	23.5	83.9	14.6
Total	523.1	100.0	363.4	100.	573.9	100.6

FAMILY BUDGETS OF TODDY-TAPPERS

We may also refer to the findings of the enquiry conducted into the family budgets of toddy tappers in Ambalapuzha and Shertalai centres by the Statistics Department of the State in 1957-58. In the former centre 100 households were enumerated and the latter 45. On an average there were six to seven members in a household at both these centres. Among every ten persons in the population there

were on an average two earners, two earning dependents and six non-earning dependents at each of the centres- The total household expenditure in Ampalapuzha centre was estimated at Rs.1 59 62 and at Shertallai Rs. 168.52. The detailed break-up of the total expenditure into its main component parts viz , food, clothing, housing and miscellaneous shows that the lion's share of the expenditure was on food. The details of household expenditure at both the centres are given in Table XXV.

TABLE XXV

Details of Household Expenditure		
Items	Ampalapuzha	Shertallai
Food		
All	104.88	112.65
General (tapioca, rice, cereals)	49.64	49.18
Pulses	3.57	5.03
Vegetables	3.14	2.84
Meat, fish etc	8.92	7.80
Oil and fats	6.14	7.52
Milk and milk products	5.11	7.91
Fruits	1.67	1.70
Condiments and spices	26.09	30.67
CLOTHING		
All	10.94	11.09
Dhothi	2.04	2.36
Sari	1.49	1.54
Shirting and Coating	1.70	1.64
Blouse	0.93	0.94
Readymade Garments	0.02	0.16
Towels	0.50	0.12
Frocks	0.13	0.56
Neriyath	0.99	0.59
Other clothing	0.15	0.51
Blanket, bed sheet and beddings	0.58	0.08
Laundry, Washerman and		
Washing	1.52	1.46
Footwear	0.04	0.21
Tailoring	0.85	1.02

Items	Ambalapuzha	Shertallai
HOUSING		
All	16.10	12.47
Fuel and Lighting	9.19	6.97
Housing	6.91	5.50
MISCELLANEOUS		
All	27.70	32.31
Toilet	1.16	3.20
Barber and Shaving	1.84	2.28
Chewing	2.31	2.95
Beedi and Cigarettes	3.05	3.92
Drugs and Intoxicants	8.16	3.16
Medical care	2.00	2.51
Education	0.83	1.18
Conveyance & Travelling	2.72	2.10
Ceremonials	1.60	1.19
Others	4.03	9.82

The expenditure on the chief items for every 100 Rupees spent was as follows:—

	All	Food	Clothing	Housing	Miscellaneous
Ambalapuzha	100	66	7	10	17
Shertallai	100	67	7	8	18

FAMILY BUDGET SURVEY IN BHARANIKAVU (1961)

The most recent family budget survey undertaken in the District was in connection with the census of 1961. Bharanikavu was one of the four villages covered by the survey and its findings too may be summarised here. The family budgets of 113 households were studied during Survey. For the Survey the households were classified under three main occupational groups having regard to their main sources of income. Accordingly 33.63 per cent households came in the group having agriculture or household cultivation, 30.08 per cent in the group having agricultural labour as their main occupation and 36.29 per cent having miscellaneous occupations like Government service, trade and other services.

Of the households in the group having agriculture or household cultivation 10.53 per cent got a monthly income between Rs. 25 and 50, 15.79 per cent between Rs. 51 and Rs. 75, 21.05 per cent

between Rs. 76 and Rs. 100 and 52.63 per cent above Rs. 100 per mensem. On a study of the items of expenditure for an average household in the various income groups the following results were obtained. The first group, viz., food covered the major portion of expenditure coming to 60.77 per cent of the total for an average household. Taking individual income groups the amount spent on this item was found to rise with every higher income group. There was perfect uniformity in the items of food articles consumed by all income groups in this occupational group with variations in respect of the quantity consumed, the lower groups spending less than the higher income groups. Rice being the principal item of food accounted for 42.22 per cent of the expenditure on food. Next to rice come tapioca, coconuts, fish, milk oils, chillies, condiments, vegetables etc., costing 6.89, 11.00, 7.78, 6.41, 3.50, 3.14, 3.32, and 2.02 per cent respectively of the expenditure on food. At the same time 2.78 per cent was spent on smoking while chewing cost 1.56 per cent. Clothing was the next major group of expenditure which covered 6.73 per cent of the total expenditure of an average family, while housing, fuel and light came as the third group costing 5.37 per cent of the total expenditure. Miscellaneous items of expenditure which covered 14.17 per cent of the total expenditure of an average family per month consisted of such items as education, dhobi, barber, travelling, medical, religious, saving and other items. The first three and the last items were uniformly seen in all the income groups. The fourth, fifth and sixth items were found in more than one income group. The last but one item which included savings like provident fund, Kuri and other compulsory deposits, was the most important item of expenditure which took in 44.42 per cent of the total expenditure for miscellaneous item of an average household. But, unlike other items, this item was found only in the highest income group. The amount spent on household cultivation, industry or business came next to the above. The first item took the major share coming to 98.37 per cent of the total expenditure under this head. The last income group spent more than double the amount spent by all other income groups together for this item. The expenditure on business run by the household was seen only in the highest income group.

As for the household having agricultural labour as their main occupation, 14.71 per cent in this group had an average monthly income ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, 44.11 per cent Rs. 51 to Rs. 75,

29.41 per cent Rs.76 to Rs. 100 and 11.76 per cent above Rs.100. As in the case of other occupational classes, food was the major item of expenditure of this occupational class as well. It covered 79.98 per cent of the total. Clothing, housing fuel and lighting and miscellaneous items of expenditure had more or less equal importance with 7.17 per cent, 6.80 per cent and 5.97 per cent respectively of the total expenditure. Expenditure on household cultivation industry and business was comparatively insignificant so far as this group is concerned. In the food group of expenditure, rice was the important item which covered 40.58 per cent of the expenditure on food. Tapioca, coconut and fish came next in the order of importance. The expenditure on tapioca was comparatively higher in this group which took in 13.95 per cent of the total expenditure on food. As in the case of labour class population elsewhere in the rural areas, the agricultural labourers also supplemented rice with tapioca and sometimes substituted it also. Another important item of expenditure in this group was smoking which took in 4.02 per cent while milk, oils, chillies, condiments etc., took in an equal share in this group. Among the miscellaneous items of expenditure dhobol or soap was the most important item which covered 31.12 per cent of the total of this group. Education came only as the second important item and barber as the third item of expenditure in this group with 21.86 per cent and 20.53 per cent respectively. An average household in this group spent only Rs.4.53 per mensem which was far below the other two occupational groups.

In the miscellaneous occupational group 4.98 per cent of the households fell in the income group between Rs. 25 and Rs. 50, 26.83 per cent between Rs. 51 and Rs. 75, 29.27 per cent between Rs. 76 and Rs. 100 and 39.02 per cent more than Rs. 100 per mensem. The expenditure pattern of this group was more analogous to the first occupational group than to the second. An amount of Rs. 119.78 per mensem was spent by an average household of this group under the various groups of expenditure among which food was the most important item. The main items of food consists of rice, tapioca, coconut, fish and milk coming to 43.32 per cent, 7.13 per cent, 10.94 per cent, 7.57 per cent and 6.38 per cent respectively. The items next in importance were oils, chillies, condiments, smoking etc. The expenditure on clothing and housing light and fuel covered 8.11 per cent and 5.74 per cent respectively. Under the miscellaneous items of expenditure education was the

most important item which took in 46.73 per cent while expenditure on savings took in 25.08 per cent. These two items constituted the major share under miscellaneous expenditure. Household cultivation, industry, business etc., conducted by the households accounted for only 2.49 per cent of the total expenditure out of which 94.97 per cent was on the first item.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE, ALLEPPEY

The Employment Exchange, Alleppey, started functioning at Quilon on May 16, 1958 and was subsequently shifted to Alleppey. Table XXVI gives particulars of the work done by the Exchange during the five years from 1960-61 to 1964-65.

TABLE XXVI

Registrations, Placing etc. in the Employment Exchange,
Alleppey (1960-65)

Year	No. of registration during the year.	No. of placements during the year	No. pending on the L. K. at the end of the year	No. of Employers using the Exchange
1960-61	9,984	848	14,655	188
1961-62	10,619	980	16,073	199
1962-63	16,619	886	28,241	227
1963-64	12,517	1,148	13,059	241
1964-65	11,971	758	13,206	293

It is estimated that 70% of these registered in the Exchange come from rural areas and 30% from the urban areas.

GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS.

The employment market reports published by the Employment Exchange, Alleppey, throw light on the general level of employment in different occupations in the District. The report for the quarter ending with March 31, 1966 shows that the total number of persons employed in 978 establishments in the District stood at 48,310. Out of this 29,962 were employed in the private sector and 18,348 in the public sector. Women constituted more than 30 per cent of the total number of employees. The table XXVII gives the industry-wise statement of the number of employees in the private and public sectors in the District as on June 30, 1966.

TABLE XXVII

Industry wise statement of Employees in the Private and Public sector as on June 30, 1966.

Description of Industry	No. of establishments	No. of persons employed		
		Public	Private	Total
1 Agricultural Livestock fishing etc.	2	526	...	526
2 Manufacturing	410	128	17,052	17,180
3 Construction	17	1,211	124	1,335
4 Electric, Gas & Water	5	509	...	509
5 Trade and Commerce	73	542	824	1,366
6 Transport, Storage & Communications	34	1,230	623	1,853
7 Administrative Service in Public sector	440	14,202	11,339	25,541
Total	978	18,318	29,062	48,380

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Census Report of 1961 throws light on the extent of unemployment in the District. It is seen that in the rural areas there were 17,748 unemployed persons either seeking employment for the first time or employed before but since thrown out and seeking employment. Unemployed persons were comparatively high in the rural areas of Shertallai and Tiruvalla Taluks. Table XXVIII illustrates the position.

TABLE XXVIII

Unemployed persons in rural areas of each taluk

District/Taluk (Rural areas)	Persons seeking employment for the first time	Persons employed before but now out of employ- ment and seeking work
	Total	Total
Alleppey District	14,954	2,794
Ambalapuzha Taluk	1,608	541
Changannur ..	1,654	161
Karthikapally ..	2,040	310

Kuttanad	..	1,689	156
Mavelikkara	..	2,181	492
Shertallai	..	2,679	888
Tiruvalla	..	3,103	316

Table XXIX gives the number of unemployed persons in the rural areas in the age group 15 years and above seeking employment and their distribution by sex and educational levels.

TABLE XXIX

Persons unemployed Aged 15 and above in rural areas by
Sex and by Educational levels

Educational level	Unemployed persons aged 15 and above			Percentage distribution		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total unemployed	17,408	12,303	5,105	100.00	100.00	100.00
Illiterate	489	420	69	2.81	3.41	1.35
Literate (without educational level)	3,997	3,779	218	22.96	30.72	4.27
Primary or Junior Basic	2,261	1,975	286	13.99	16.05	5.60
Matriculation and above	10,661	6,129	4,532	61.24	49.82	88.78

Table XXX furnishes the number of unemployed persons aged 15 years and above in the urban area seeking employment by sex and educational levels.

TABLE XXX

Persons unemployed aged 15 and above by sex and
Educational levels in Urban Areas

Educational level	Total unemployed		
	Persons	Males	Females
Total	6,547	5,287	1,260
1 Illiterate	396	365	31
2 Literate (without educational level)	1,977	1,922	55
3 Primary or Junior Basic	1,434	1,332	102
4 Matriculation or Higher Secondary	2,382	1,475	907
5 Technical diploma not equal to degree	75	37	88

6	Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	15	1	14
7	University degree or Post-graduate degree other than technical degree	147	97	50
8	Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree			
	Total	121	58	63
i	Engineering	3	3	...
ii	Medicine	...	...	...
iii	Agriculture	2	2	...
iv	Veterinary and Dairying	...	...	...
v	Technology	...	...	...
vi	Teaching	4	...	4
vii	Others	112	53	59

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Community Development Programme was introduced in Alleppey District with the inauguration of the Ambalapuzha and Koipuram N.E.S Blocks in October 1953. The District has since been delimited into 17 N.E.S. Blocks viz., (1) Ambalapuzha, (2) Aryad, (3) Kanjikuzhi (4) Thycattusseri, (5) Pattanakad, (6) Champakulam, (7) Veliyad, (8) Haripad, (9) Muthukulam, (10) Chengannur, (11) Koipuram, (12) Pulikizh, (13) Mavelikar, (14) Barankavu, (15) Pandalam, (16) Kulanada, and (17) Mallapally. A complete list of the Blocks, their status on August 1, 1964 the details of the population and area covered by them, the dates of their establishment, the number of villages and Panchayat etc., is given in the Table at Appendix VI.

The Community Development Programme is a multipurpose programme embracing all fields of developmental activity. The activities may be classified under the following heads (1) Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (2) Irrigation (3) Co-operation (4) Health and rural sanitation (5) Education (6) Social Education (7) Communication (8) Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries and (9) Housing. The Table given at Appendix VII to this chapter sums up the cumulative achievements and people's contributions under the Community Development Programme in Champakulam Block in this District till the period ending.

Apart from the regular Community Development Programme, the centrally sponsored Rural Works Programme which aims providing employment for agricultural labourers during slack seasons and increasing agricultural production is also in force in this District. The programme is implemented in the following five Blocks.

1 Stage II Block Aryad	}	Launched in 1963
2 Stage II Block, Kanjikuzhi		
3 Stage II Block, Thycattussery		
4 Stage II Block, Haripad		
5 Post Stage II Block, Koipuram	}	Launched in 1964.

The minimum financial target fixed for a Block for one year was Rs. one lakh. The works sanctioned for Aryad, Kanjikuzhi and Thycattussery Blocks were mainly road works. Certain agriculturally productive works (minor irrigation) have also been sanctioned for these blocks. The works sanctioned for the Haripad Block are Irrigation works (construction of bunds in punja fields). In Koipuram Block the works include 2 irrigation works and 4 road works. The progress in the implementation of the Rural works programme has, however, been slow.

सत्यमेव जयते

APPENDIX II
Agricultural wages—Selected centres of Alleppey District
Skilled Labour : Carpenter
 (1960)

	1/60	2/60	3/60	4/60	5/60	6/60	7/60	8/60	9/60	10/60	11/60	12/60
Pulinkunnu												
Normal working hours.												
8.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67
Penaukara North	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40
	(1961)											
Pulinkunnu	2.66	2.66	2.66	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.50	3.50	3.50
Pennukara north	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
	(1962)											
Karuvatta South	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4.25	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	4.25	4.25
Pennukara North	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
	(1963)											
Karuvatta South	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Pennukara North	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
	(1964)											
Karuvatta South	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Pennukara North	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.50	3.50	4.75	4.75	5.00	5.50	5.50
	(1965)											
Karuvatta South	4.50	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.50
Pennukara North	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
	(1966)											
Karuvatta South	5.50	5.50	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Pennukara North	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50

		(1960)											
Normal working hours.		1/50	2/60	3/60	4/60	5/60	6/60	7/60	8/60	9/60	10/60	11/60	12/60
Pulimkunnu	8.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Karuvatta South	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3'00	3'00	3'00	3'00	3'50
Pennukara North	"	...	...	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50
Karuvatta South	"	3'75	3'75	3'75	4'25	3'75	3'75	3'75	3'75	3'75	3'75	4'25	4'25
Pennukara North	"	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50
Karuvatta South	"	4'25	4'25	4'25	4'25	4'25	4'25	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00
Pennukara North	"	3'50	3'50	3'50	3'50	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'80
Karuvatta South	"	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'50	4'50	4'50	4'50
Pennukara North	"	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'00	4'50	4'50	4'75	4'75	5'00	5'00	5'00
Karuvatta South	8	4'50	4'50	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'00	5'50
Pennukara North	"	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'75	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00
Karuvatta South	8	5'50	5'50	5'50	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00
Pennukara North	"	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'50	5'50	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00	6'00

Skilled Labour : Blacksmith — Not quoted.

Skilled Labour : Blacksmith—Not quoted.

Field Labour Paddy field Women

Normal Working hours		(1960)										
		1/60	2/60	3/60	4/60	5/60	6/60	7/60	8/60	9/60	10/60	11/60 12/60
Pulinkunnu	8	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	N. Q.	...	...	...	...	...
Pulinkunnu	8	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.75	1.75	0.75	0.87	0.88	1.88	1.00 1.2
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	N. Q.	...	...	...	...	...
Karuvatta South	8	1.37	8.37	1.37	1.25	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	N. Q.	...	...	...	...	...
Karuvatta South	8	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	N. Q.	...	...	...	...	...
Karuvatta South	8	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	N. Q.	...	...	...	...	...
Koruvatta South	8	1.50	1.50	1.75	1.75	.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	2.00
Pennukara North	"	...	...	...	...	...	N. Q.	...	...	...	...	...
Karuvatta South	8	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	2.40	2.40	2.50
Pennukara North	"	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50

Field Labour: Paddy field-Children.

APPENDIX III

Wages payable to employees employed in the processing
and baling operations in the coir industry

Basic wage excluding
D.A. per Cwt.

	Rs.	Np.
1 (i) Superior anjengo		
Up to 475 ft.	0	95
From 476 to 650 ft.	1	89
From 651 ft. and above	2	65
(ii) Aratory		
Up to 425 ft.	1	33
From 426 ft. to 490 ft.	1	89
From 491 ft. and above	2	65
(iii) Valcom		
Machine-below 500 ft.	1	33
„ 500 ft. and above	2	49
Hand-below 500 ft.	0	88
„ 500 ft. and above	1	89
(iv) Alappadan		
Machine-below 500 ft.	1	33
„ 500 ft. and above	2	21
Hand-below 500 ft.	0	88
„ 500 ft. and above	1	66
(v) Mangadan	0	95
(vi) Ashtamudi	0	70
N Paroor	1	66
T. K. Roping	0	28
Beach	0	88
Aloe	1	11
Alapat/Aratory stitching yarn	3	32
2. Reconditioning damaged yarn-basic rebanking rate	+ 15%	
3. Pulling Punja from ordinary hanks-basic rebanking rate	+ 15%	
4. Pulling punja from American hanks-basic rebanking rate	— 35%	
5. Double splicing (as per Hop Trade) basic rebanking rate	+ 10%	

SCHEDULE—B

(For workers engaging on daily rate basis)

Basic wage excluding

D. A.

	Rs-	nP.
Opening and sorting		
Carriers	0	72
Openers	0	82
Examiners	0	85
Sizers	0	90
Sorters	1	00

Piece Rate per Candy of 672 Lbs

Basic wages

Rs, nP.

Vaikom	Opening	0	41
	Sizing	0	13
	Carrying	0	10
	Sorting-Hand twist	0	56
	Sorting-Machine twist	0	50
Angengo	Opening	0	32
	Sizing	0	11
	Carrying	0	8
	Sorting	0	37
Mangadan - N, Parur.	Opening	0	26
	Sizing	0	11
	Carrying	0	8
	Sorting	0	37
Aratory	Opening	0	28
	Sizing	0	12
	Carrying	0	8
	Sorting	0	37
Alappad	Opening	0	28
	Sizing	0	12
	Carrying	0	8
	Sorting	0	32
Ashtamudy	Opening	0	23
	Sizing	0	9
	Carrying	0	8
	Sorting	0	32

		Basic wage Rs.	nP.
Roping	Sorting	0	12
	Sizing	....	....
Beach	Opening	0	62
	Sizing	0	20
	Carrying	0	10
	Sorting	0	56
	Daily Paid Workers		
	Unskilled		

		Basic wage excluding D. A. Rs. nP.
Manual work	Cleaners, Creche Attendants etc	
Men		0 87
Women		0 70

SUPERVISORY AND SKILLED

Rebanking and other Moopans, Moopahis, skilled carpenters, Masons, Blacksmiths.

	From 1 to 5 years of Service	Basic wage. Rs.	nP.
Men		1	20
Women		1	00
	From 5 years to 10 years of service		
Men		1	80
Women		1	10
	From 11 years to 15 years of service		
Men		1	40
Women		1	20
	From 16 to 20 years of Service		
Men		1	50
Women		1	20
	From 20 to 30 years of Service		
Men		1	60
Women		1	40
	From 31 years and above		
Men		1	70
Women		1	50

SUPERVISORY AND SEMI-SKILLED GRADE-II

Assistant Moopans and Moopathies, Semi-skilled Carpenters,
Semi-skilled Mason, Semi-skilled Blacksmiths, Examiners,
Spicing Supervisors and Markers.

From 1 year to 5 years of service		
Men	0	95
Women	0	85
From 6 years to 10 years of service		
Men	1	05
Women	0	95
From 11 years to 15 years of service		
Men	1	15
Women	1	05
From 16 years to 20 years of service		
Men	1	25
Women	1	15
From 21 years to 30 years of service		
Men	1	55
Women	1	25
From 31 years and above service		
Men	1	45
Women	1	35

APPENDIX IV

Family Expenditure on Important items, Expenditure Group.

Below Rs. 50 per month

Items	Alleppey	Tiru- valla	Kayam- kulam	Pulln- kunnu	Sherta- llai
Rice	13.1	13.84	10.22	11.19	6.24
Condiments		1.75	2.46	2.64	2.96
Pulses	0.4	0.62	0.45	0.23	0.02
Tapioca	1.0	3.15	3.55	3.54	4.84
Vegetables	0.9	0.73	0.62	0.34	1.11
Meat	0.1	0.07	0.12	0.56	0.02
Fish	2.0	1.61	2.52	2.87	3.52
Milk	0.9	0.63	0.47	0.40	0.03
Tee, Coffee, etc	2.1	2.52	1.50	2.80	4.04
Oil	1.4	1.31	1.70	1.84	2.64
Coconut	2.4	2.06	2.43	1.84	1.49

House rent	1.7	1.50	1.50	1.75	2.86
Light	0.8	0.44	0.58	0.60	1.36
Fuel	2.7	2.90	1.84	3.86	3.36
Clothing-year	2.0	2.68	2.35	2.39	21.6
Pansupari	1.4	1.19	1.80	1.82	2.62
Education, Recreation & Medical.	} 0.14	2.17	3.95	2.91	2.77
Washing		1.16	1.17	0.55	1.09
Total	37.0	40.33	39.23	42.13	43.12

Family Expenditure on Important items. Expenditure Group;

Rs 50—100 per month

Rice	18.8	24.46	19.94	22.89	18.29
Condiments	4.1	3.14	3.88	4.39	4.82
Pulses	1.3	1.29	0.74	0.43	0.55
Tapioca	0.9	6.58	5.15	5.55	6.26
Vegetables	2.5	1.86	1.37	0.70	2.44
Meat	1.1	0.33	0.54	1.15	0.98
Fish	4.2	2.97	3.67	4.32	5.95
Milk	2.5	2.28	1.35	0.92	1.13
Tea, Coffee, etc.	3.4	4.05	2.90	4.79	5.49
Oil	2.8	2.18	2.71	2.78	4.19
Coconut	4.0	4.17	4.08	3.11	2.43
Clothing-Year	4.2	5.91	4.55	4.58	5.54
Washing		1.89	1.80	0.59	1.15
Rent	2.5	2.22	2.60	2.14	3.84
Light	1.5	0.77	0.75	0.71	4.27
Fuel	4.9	5.12	3.23	5.53	4.52
Education, Recreation & Medical	} 1.24	5.02	8.50	7.07	10.19
Pansupari		3.4	2.58	2.67	3.66
Total	73.8	76.82	72.23	74.43	82.70

Family Expenditure on Important Items. Expenditure Group:
Rs. 100—150

Rice	38.2	34.22	31.14	35.98	30.11
Condiments	6.1	5.09	5.63	7.00	6.91
Pulses	2.2	2.77	2.10	1.12	1.46
Tapioca	1.2	7.73	6.49	7.09	6.68
Vegetables	4.1	3.81	2.60	1.64	4.36
Meat	2.3	1.19	1.77	2.41	2.27
Fish	6.4	4.90	7.29	5.53	7.35
Milk	7.6	5.70	4.70	3.27	3.78
Tea, Coffee, etc.	5.0	6.98	5.35	7.32	8.01
Oil	4.2	4.01	4.06	3.00	6.23
Coconut	3.3	7.12	6.15	5.37	4.97
Clothing-Year	6.7	9.71	7.22	7.60	8.88
Washing	....	2.30	3.04	1.30	1.82
Rent	3.9	4.93	1.99	3.87	5.37
Light	2.1	1.25	1.02	0.98	1.83
Fuel	7.0	8.08	4.67	8.24	6.40
Education, Recreation & Medical	}	5.13	10.57	16.47	12.93
Pansupari		5.1	3.86	5.19	4.04
Total		117.4	121.25	119.88	118.69
				131.91	

Family Expenditure on Important items. Expenditure Group:
Rs. 150—250

Rice	39.8	46.35	44.13	47.40	42.01
Condiments	5.3	7.79	8.70	9.11	7.14
Pulses	3.9	5.07	4.47	2.50	4.07
Tapioca	1.6	7.17	6.05	6.36	4.64
Vegetables	6.1	6.48	5.52	3.80	9.61
Meat	5.0	3.25	4.19	5.30	3.78
Fish	9.0	6.64	9.25	6.30	8.75
Milk	13.6	10.21	10.40	13.02	13.02
Tea, Coffee, etc.	7.2	11.27	10.11	8.74	11.09
Oil	6.0	6.44	7.34	6.91	9.76

Coconut	8.5	10.12	9.86	8.35	7.61
Clothing-year	10.9	14.15	12.07	10.65	13.54
Washing	....	4.28	5.08	2.53	3.04
Rent	5.6	9.99	10.60	9.41	9.19
Light	2.8	2.17	1.94	1.32	2.30
Fuel	9.7	11.64	8.00	14.33	8.53
Education, Recreation & Medical	}	9.18	17.59	30.02	15.65
Pansupari		8.3	4.85	6.27	4.73
Total		162.7	185.46	194.30	177.78

250 - 350

Rice	53.5	67.35	57.66	64.16	55.82
Condiments	10.6	0.91	11.90	15.61	11.52
Pulses	6.2	7.65	7.47	3.82	7.93
Tapioca	...	5.14	6.28	4.55	3.09
Vegetables	9.0	10.03	8.80	7.32	15.57
Meat	8.2	6.79	10.47	11.70	4.40
Fish	11.7	9.56	10.71	12.64	6.96
Milk	21.7	22.44	15.38	36.11	27.65
Tea, Coffee, etc.	10.4	18.51	15.10	17.06	14.71
Oil	9.4	9.48	12.45	11.02	13.75
Coconut	11.8	15.49	14.10	16.39	10.49
Clothing-Year	13.7	21.50	18.13	21.31	19.09
Washing	5.3	7.16	.00	4.43	4.27
Rent	12.1	17.65	14.64	19.77	15.53
Light	3.9	3.68	2.90	2.74	3.19
Fuel	14.1	14.55	8.60	15.22	13.10
Education Recreation & Medical	}	18.8	30.13	66.14	35.32
Pansupari		11.7	7.11	7.43	5.36
Total		265.0	285.13	295.19	304.43

350—500

Rice	76.0	78.64	76.26	63.83	71.41
Condiments	13.6	12.86	14.81	26.08	16.23
Pulses	9.1	8.94	10.62	5.22	11.91
Tapioca	...	4.11	3.71	3.00	3.50
Vegetables	14.0	16.01	11.00	8.50	19.25
Meat	7.6	17.28	11.88	18.78	9.11
Fish	9.2	12.82	15.86	20.63	8.98
Milk	35.7	36.69	25.76	42.85	39.11
Tea, Coffee, etc.	18.0	24.43	23.60	20.68	20.34
Oil	12.1	24.62	16.14	19.00	18.48
Coconut	16.4	19.54	18.90	13.50	13.59
Clothing-year	25.3	33.30	24.14	30.80	24.51
Washing	7.2	11.28	10.40	7.53	6.23
Rent	24.0	28.30	24.62	32.22	22.05
Light	5.1	6.33	4.42	3.08	4.43
Education, Recreation & Medical	38.20	70.31	81.00	82.06	102.32
Pansupari	13.7	9.23	7.24	7.89	8.05
Total	384.0	434.94	404.88	425.29	414.78

APPENDIX V

The average quantities of the various commodities consumed per month in the family according to the Expenditure groups in the centres-

ALLEPPEY

Items	Unit	Below 50	Rs. 50-100	Rs. 100-150	Rs. 150-250	Rs. 250-350	Rs. 350-500
Rice	Edangali	28.49	40.82	61.33	86.56	116.35	106.04
Condiments	Lbs	7.09	13.10	18.80	25.49	32.68	42.05
Tapioca	Lbs	14.77	13.74	17.72	23.93	39.88	43.28
Pulses	Lbs	1.09	3.53	5.97	10.59	16.83	24.68
Vegetables	Lbs	4.17	11.59	19.00	28.04	41.71	64.74
Meat	Lbs	0.12	1.71	2.83	6.09	10.09	9.23
Fish	Lbs	2.99	6.27	9.56	13.44	17.44	13.75
Milk	Edangali	1.01	2.80	2.51	15.13	24.28	39.95
Tea, etc	Lbs	3.06	4.96	7.30	10.51	15.18	26.27
Oil	Edangali	0.58	1.16	1.75	2.50	3.91	5.03

Coconut	Nos.	10.00	17.00	27.00	36.00	51.00	70.00
Clothing	Yds	1.98	4.18	6.70	10.10	18.73	25.33
Washing	Nos.	12.00	20.00	33.00	53.00	88.00	120.00
Rent	As	27.20	40.09	62.40	89.60	195.60	284.00
Light	—	1.60	3.00	6.68	8.91	12.41	16.22
Fuel	Lbs	206.72	367.39	525.57	728.30	1058.63	1404.04
Education	As.	21.60	51.20	100.80	172.80	317.28	640.00

TIRUVALLA

Rice	Ed	25.76	46.36	64.78	90.92	127.77	145.54
Condiments	Lb,	3.19	5.72	9.29	14.3	20.95	23.92
Tapioca	Lb.	58.55	121.75	142.35	135.25	85.60	95.42
Pulses	Lb.	1.49	3.30	7.16	12.96	19.68	23.52
Vegetables	Lb.	2.63	6.57	13.46	23.09	36.80	51.51
Meat	Lb.	0.02	0.39	1.38	3.75	8.20	18.93
Fish	Lb.	2.80	5.30	8.73	11.92	16.25	22.06
Milk	Ed,	0.68	2.44	6.08	10.95	24.82	39.79
Tea, Coffee							
etc.,	Lb,	2.57	4.08	6.99	11.32	18.95	24.34
Oil	Ed,	0.04	0.68	1.25	2.03	3.08	4.73
Coconuts	No.	8.46	17.38	29.78	42.43	64.83	80.38
Clothing	Yds.	1.94	4.32	7.12	10.39	16.28	25.34
Washing	No.	11.45	18.90	23.00	42.43	64.33	80.38
Rent	Annas	24.16	35.52	77.76	152.52	289.18	452.32
Light	Unit	0.66	1.16	1.88	3.25	5.58	9.40
Fuel	Lb,	159.56	292.24	456.23	669.68	382.68	1086.60
Education	Annas	33.28	86.48	169.12	280.48	497.20	897.20
pansupari	Unit	0.47	1.01	1.52	1.93	2.68	2.70

KAYAMKULAM

Rice	Ed.	19.94	37.35	57.91	82.67	106.94	145.27
Condiments	lb.	4.79	7.36	10.29	14.02	21.62	27.13
Tapioca	lb.	65.64	97.61	123.47	118.06	115.46	62.69
Pulses	lb.	1.11	2.54	5.30	12.20	17.50	27.44
Vegetables	lb.	2.29	5.00	9.33	19.61	30.84	37.48
Meat	lb,	0.17	0.64	2.26	5.31	11.02	14.49
Fish	lb.	4.75	8.18	13.12	16.65	17.50	29.71
Milk	Ed.	0.63	1.83	5.34	11.47	18.78	27.63
Tea, Coffee, etc.	lb.	1.66	3.29	5.89	10.30	15.29	23.60
Oil	Ed.	0.50	0.90	1.42	2.32	3.71	5.02

Items	Unit	Below 50	Rs. 50-100	Rs. 100-150	Rs. 150-200	Rs. 200-250	Rs. 250-350	Rs. 350-500
Coconuts	No.	10.59	17.51	26.05	38.17	59.13	78.95	
Clothing	Yds.	1.97	3.70	5.57	8.44	13.12	18.24	
Washing	No.	10.03	18.04	31.94	52.41	69.63	104.25	
Rent	Annas	26.02	41.48	81.96	168.39	269.99	397.60	
Light	Unit	0.82	1.16	2.71	5.48	7.93	11.56	
Fuel	lb.	106.14	182.90	258.31	431.89	522.01	757.76	
Education	Annas	18.38	39.68	85.71	245.75	567.23	1012.30	
Pansupari	Unit	0.79	1.45	2.10	2.48	3.07	2.80	

PULINKUNNU

Items	Unit	Below 50	Rs. 50-100	Rs. 100-150	Rs. 150-250	Rs. 250-350	Rs. 350-500
Rice	Ed.	21.23	13.42	68.26	89.92	121.72	121.09
Condiments	lb.	4.84	8.05	12.83	16.70	28.62	47.80
Tapioca	lb.	65.39	102.83	131.36	117.85	84.30	55.53
Pulses	lb.	0.59	1.11	2.89	6.44	9.84	13.45
Vegetables	lb.	1.21	2.19	5.83	13.50	26.00	30.19
Meat	lb.	0.66	1.35	2.82	6.20	13.70	21.99
Fish	lb.	5.12	7.71	9.87	11.24	22.55	36.81
Milk	Ed.	0.43	0.99	3.51	14.37	38.71	45.94
Tea, Coffee, Etc.	lb.	2.82	4.82	7.37	8.30	17.17	20.81
Oil	Ed.	0.57	0.87	0.94	2.16	3.44	5.93
Coconuts	No.	7.70	13.03	22.49	34.97	68.65	56.54
Clothing	Yds.	1.75	3.36	5.57	7.81	15.63	22.59
Washing	No.	5.50	5.90	13.00	25.20	44.30	75.30
Rent	Annas	28.00	34.24	61.92	150.56	316.32	515.52
Light	Unit	0.90	1.07	2.60	3.50	7.26	8.16
Fuel	lb.	220.75	316.26	471.24	819.33	870.43	1351.96
Education	Annas	46.56	113.12	206.88	266.40	565.12	1312.99
Pansupari	Unit	0.72	1.05	1.60	1.87	2.12	3.12

SHERTALLAI

Item	Unit	Below	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
		50	50-100	100-150	150-250	250-350	350-500
Rice	Ed.	11.83	34.70	57.12	79.69	105.90	135.47
Condiments	lb.	5.43	8.84	12.67	13.09	21.11	29.75
Taploca	lb.	89.60	115.98	123.67	85.91	57.21	64.85
Pulses	lb.	0.37	1.43	3.77	10.48	20.42	30.68
Vegetables	lb.	3.94	8.67	15.47	34.14	55.32	68.38
Meat	lb.	0.22	1.15	2.66	4.42	5.15	10.67
Fish	lb.	6.25	10.62	13.12	15.62	12.41	16.02
Milk	Ed.	0.14	1.21	4.5	13.96	29.64	41.94
Tea, Coffee, etc.	lb.	4.06	5.53	8.06	11.16	14.80	20.47
Oil	Ed.	0.82	1.31	1.95	3.05	4.30	5.78
Coconuts	No.	6.24	10.17	26.83	31.86	43.92	56.92
Clothing	Yds	1.59	4.07	6.51	9.93	14.00	18.05
Washing	Nos.	10.91	11.47	18.23	30.85	42.65	62.27
Rent	Annas	43.68	61.36	85.16	146.99	243.45	351.72
Light	Unit	2.05	1.90	8.85	6.08	8.45	11.75
Fuel	lb.	192.33	258.33	365.78	490.69	749.30	868.25
Education	Annas	44.32	163.06	330.56	548.90	1038.82	1637.07
Pansupari	Unit	1.03	1.44	1.92	2.04	2.23	3.18

APPENDIX VI

Statement of Blocks in the Alleppey District showing area and Population etc

Sl. No.	Taluk	Name of Block	Head Quarters	Present Status.	Year of starting	Area in sq.mile.	Population,	No. of Villages/Panchayats.	Remarks
1	Ambalapuzha	Ambalapuzha	Sanathanapuram	Post Stage II	1953	27.00	51886	3	3
		Aryad	Alleppey	Stage II	1955	32.36	63115	3	3
2	Ambalapuzha	Kanjikuzhi	Kanjikuzhi	Stage II	1956	42.4	95863	7	5
3	Sherthallai	Tycattusseri	Tycattusseri	Stage I	1961	33.03	50690	4	4
4	Sherthallai	Pattanakkad	Pattanakkad	Stage I	1960	41.06	103170	5	8
5	Sherthallai	Champakulam	Mankompu	Stage II	1963	71.26	96124	9	6
6	Kuttanad								The Block was started as Stage II
7	Kuttanad	Vellyaoad	Kumarankari	Stage II	1955	54.85	66622	6	6
8	Krithiagpally	Haripad	Haripad	Stage II	1957	41.43	90824	9	9
9	Karthigappally	Mutukulam	Mutukulam	Stage I	1961	73.92	87806	6	5
10	Chengannur	Chengannur	Puliyoor	Stage II	1957	38.78	113216	9	8
11	Tiruvalla	Koipuram	Pullad	Post Stage II	1953	47.08	85146	6	6
12	Tiruvalla	Pulikeezh	Pulikeezh	Stage II	1954	29.05	79000	7	6
13	Mavelikara	Mavelikara	Mavelikara	Post stage II	1954	35.01	121734	6	4
14	Mavelikara	Bharanikavu	Bharanikavu	Stage I	1960	31.07	74923	4	4
15	Mavelikara	Pandalam	Pandalam	Stage I	1961	41.91	79525	3	5
16	Chengannur	Kulanada	Kulanada	Stage I	1961	39.28	85000	5	5
17	Tiruvalla	Mallappally	Mallappally	Stage II	1956	51.27	101398	6	7

APPENDIX VII

Physical Achievements and People's contribution in the
Champakulam N. E. S. Block till the end of January 1966

1	Compost pits (Nos.)	1110
2	Chemical fertilisers	6398 M. T
3	Insecticides	374 Qd.
	(a) Lires	4328 litres
4	Plants sprayed (Nos)	399951
5	Improved seeds	193518 Kg.
6	Green manure cuttings (Nos)	85219
7	Green Manure seeds distributed	214 Kg
8	Coconut seedlings (Nos)	21172
9	Fertilisers & cultural demonstrations (Nos)	236
10	Holdings taken up	255
11	Area under Japanese Method of paddy cultivation (acres, 70 41	
12	Quantity of vegetables seed	127 Kg.
13	Improved implements (Nos)	168
14	Young farmers clubs(Nos.)	7
15	Crop competition (Nos.)	10
16	Persors participated (Nos)	300
17	Breeding centres, Natural (Nos)	...
18	Breeding centres, Artificial (Nos)	...
19	Pedigree bulls supplied (Nos)	...
20	Insemination, Natural (Nos)	...
21	Insemination, Artificial (Nos.)	1141
22	Veterinary dispensaries (Nos.)	...
23	Animal inoculated (Nos.)	1167
24	Bulls castrated (Nos.)	97
25	Hatching eggs distributed (Nos.)	32
26	Pedigree birds supplied (Nos.)	2646
27	Poultry centres opened(Nos.)	45
28	Poultry treated & vaccinated (Nos.)	20 957
29	Cattle show conducted(Nos.)	2
30	Quantity of mineral mixture and poultry feed.	4333 Kg.
31	Area under fodder cultivation (Acres)	4
32	Milk societies registered (Nos.)	
33	Pump sets supplied (Nos)	14
34	Tanks improved (Nos)	Nil

35	Canals & channels constructed	
	Net area irrigated	...
36	Wells	...
37	Tanks	...
38	Canals	...
39	Others	...
40	Area reclaimed (acres)	...
41	Demonstration Plots for soil conservation (Nos)	...
42	Surface wells constructed (Nos)	12
43	Surface well renovated (Nos)	
44	Tube wells (Nos)	
45	Fisheries & fingerlings	...
46	Seakage pits (Nos)	
47	Rural latrines (Nos)	232
48	Drains constructed (Yds)	...
49	Smokeless chul (Nos)	...
50	Village lanes paved (Sq yds)	...
51	Bathing ghats (No.)	...
52	Secondary Primary health centres (Nos)	...
53	Existing dispensaries (converted)	...
54	Mobile Health Centres (Nos)	...
55	Baby clinics (Nos)	...
56	Maternity & child welfare centres	...
57	Family planning advising clinics (Nos)	3 centres under construction
58	Village Houses constructed (Nos)	...
59	Village houses reconditioned (Nos)	...
60	Aid given to existing schools (Nos)	...
61	Community centres (Nos)	...
62	Children's park (Nos)	...
63	Sports clubs (Nos)	10
64	Adults Literacy centres (Nos)	1
65	Adults benefited (Nos)	50
66	New Libraries & reading rooms (Nos)	10
67	Books supplied (Nos)	...
68	Entertainments (Nos)	20
69	Cultural clubs (Nos)	12
70	Members (No.)	475
71	Women's clubs (Nos)	10
72	Members (No.)	750
73	Village leaders camps	6

74	Village leaders trained (Nos)	325
75	N. C. C., A. C. C., B. S. S., camps	1
76	Cinema shows	33
77	Pucca roads (miles)	..
78	New Kacha road (miles)	.
79	Existing roads (miles) improved	..
80	Culverts	...
81	Foot bridges	...
82	Production centres	
83	Crafts adopted	3 (Tailoring)
84	Students trained	75
85	Bee-hives supplied	....
86	Credit/Multipurpose co-operative societies (Nos)	33
87	Industrial co-operative societies (Nos)	7
88	Farming co-operative societies (Nos)	8
89	Others (Nos)	6
90	Total	54
91	Membership in Credit & Multipurpose	10495
92	Industrial	415
93	Farming	2929
94	Others	1410
95	Total	15249
96	Labour value (Rs. '000)	17898
97	Land (acres)	Nil
98	Cash & other contributions	Rs. 2320

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Alleppey District is divided both on geographical and functional basis for purposes of general administration. Geographically, it is divided into two Revenue Divisions 7 Taluks, 14 Firkas and 99 Villages. Functionally, the District administration is channelled through various Departments of the State Government each of which has one or more offices of its own at the District level

THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR

The District Collector is the head of the District Administration and as such he occupies a key place in the administrative set-up of the District. He is referred to as the king pin of the administration or the pivot around which the administration revolves, or the eyes and ears of Government or the '*Ma-Baap*' of the District. From whichever angle one may look at this office, the fact remains that it is today of paramount significance in the Administration of the country. The Government have recognised the Collector as their chief representative in the District and other officers as his technical assistants. As the accredited agent of the Government the Collector is the 'nerve centre' of all Government activities in the District. He supervises, directs and co-ordinates the activities of the various departments with particular reference to the planned development of the District. The authority of the District Collector is derived from different statutes, executive instructions and other ancillary powers. He also enjoys all the residuary functions in the District. Whenever the Government require any particular activity to be carried out in the District, they look up to the Collector for help, especially if what is proposed to be done is not specifically earmarked as the function of any Department. Apart from all these, the Collector's authority is sanctioned by historical factors, conventions and traditions. As the officer responsible for land revenue collection which is perhaps the earliest function of any Government known to history, the Revenue Collector had gained over the centuries considerable prestige and importance. During the British period in addition to collection of revenue he was also put in charge of the maintenance of law and order. This made him a key functionary of Government

having wide powers and large responsibilities. The transition from foreign rule to independence did not involve any diminution in the authority and importance of the Collector. On the other hand, his functions have only increased in variety and importance. With the advent of economic planning the Government have begun to rely more and more on the District Collector for the effective co-ordination and implementation of plan schemes.

The functions of the District Collector may be classified into seven important groups, viz. (1) Revenue (2) Law and order (3) Elections (4) Development (5) Relation with local bodies (6) Welfare activities and (7) Miscellaneous functions. The more important of the functions falling under each group are described below:-

REVENUE FUNCTIONS

The Collector is the head of the Land Revenue Department in the District. The major revenue duties include general supervision and control of revenue collection, land records and the staff of the Revenue Department. This involves promotions, transfers, demotions, punishments etc. of the subordinate officers according to the rules framed by the Government, guiding and controlling the work in the Collectorate and subordinate offices through frequent inspections and discussions and supervisions over the collection of revenue, submission of periodical returns to the Board of Revenue and the Government and also hearing of appeals against decisions of the subordinate officers. In this category may also be included the civil supply functions in connection with food grains, sugar, cement and other essential commodities.

In the exercise of his revenue functions the Collector comes into contact with other Departments. This is particularly seen in regard to land acquisition and revenue recovery. The functions of the Collector in regard to taking possession of the required land and handing it over to the requisitioning departments have been specified in the Kerala Land Acquisition Act (1951). The Revenue Recovery Act lays down clear responsibilities for the Collector and his subordinates. In the discharge of these he comes into contact even with the Departments of the Government of India like the Income Tax Department.

The District Collector is also responsible for safeguarding Government lands and he is given specific functions and powers under the Kerala Land Conservancy Act (1957). Under the Act the

Collector is to take action against encroachers. But in actual practice the Collector's powers have been delegated to the Tahsildars for all actions except hearing appeals. The Collector is to hear appeals against the orders of the Tahsildars.

Mention may be made of the powers under the Kerala Stamp Act (1959) also. The Collector has powers in respect of adjudication of stamps, impounding of documents, refund of stamps and offences under the Kerala Stamp Act.

The following is the list of Revenue Officers in the District who assist the Collector in his work.

Designation of Officer	No.
Revenue Divisional Officers	2
Punja Special Officer	1
Special Deputy Collector	1
Tahsildars	7
Deputy Tahsildars	18
Upper Division Typists	2
Upper Division Clerks	57
Stenographers	2
Lower Division Clerks	100
Lower Division Typists	23
Revenue Inspectors (Lower Division)	19
Revenue Supervisor (Upper Division)	1
Village Officers	109
Village Assistants	166
Peons	296

The staff pattern of the Collector's Office is indicated below:

Personal Assistant	1
Additional Personal Assistant	1
Financial Assistant	1
Huzur Sheristadar	1
Head Clerks	3
Fair Copy Superintendent	1
Upper Division Clerks	20
Stenographers	2
Upper Division Typist	2
Lower Division Clerks	29
Lower Division Typists	9

Attender	1
Copyists	2
Peons	8

The staff of the Collectorate is divided into 9 sections, viz. (1) Secret (2) Accounts (3) Revenue and Miscellaneous (4) Magisterial (5) Development (6) Records (7) Distribution, Fair Copy and Despatch (8) Loans and Pensions (9) Election. For each section, there is a section head. The Huzur Sheristdar is the Chief Ministerial Head of the Office, The Additional District Magistrate is the head of the office. All the Revenue Officials in the District are under the direct control of the Collector.

LAW AND ORDER

The Collector is primarily responsible for the maintenance of Law and Order in the District. In order to enable him to discharge his duty in this regard the police force in the District is placed under his general control and direction. By virtue of his office the Collector enjoys the powers of the District Magistrate and is designated Additional District Magistrate. But with the separation of the judiciary from the executive he enjoys only such of the powers of the District Magistrate as are of an executive nature. The Superintendent of Police is to assist the Collector in this respect. The Collector has also the authority to investigate into allegations against the police officials of the District.

In the discharge of his duties in regard to Law and Order the Collector is assisted by his Personal Assistant who is also an Additional District Magistrate. The Revenue Divisional Officers are also Executive First Class Magistrates and the Tahsildars are Executive Second Class Magistrates. These functions also involve certain powers under the Arms Act and powers regarding the issue of passports and the conduct of confidential enquiries.

The Collector has some powers in regard to the law officers in the District. The appointments of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors and Additional Government Pleaders and public Prosecutors are made by the Government on the nomination of the Collector in consultation with the District Judge. The fees to Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors and Additional Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors are sanctioned by him. Their travelling allowance bills are also passed for payment by the Collector. It may be noted in this connection that there are three

Government Pleaders in this District:-District Government Pleader Alleppey Additional Government Pleader, Alleppey and Additional Government Pleader Mavelikara,

The posts of Assistant Public Prosecutors are outside the purview of the Public Service Commission. Appointments to the posts of A. P. Ps, Grade II are made by direct recruitment on a District-wise basis. As and when a regular vacancy in the category of A. P. Ps, Grade II arises the Collector will notify the vacancy and invite applications from advocates possessing prescribed qualifications. The Collector will then prepare a panel of names in consultation with the Superintendent of Police and the District Judge and forward the same to the Government. The Government are the final authority to make appointments to the posts of Assistant Public Prosecutors in Grade II. But the Collector can make temporary appointments of Assistant Public Prosecutors (Grade II) in vacancies caused by the grant of leave to or by reason of death or resignation of an officer in the grade and which are not likely to last for a period exceeding 3 months. Appointments to the posts of Assistant Public Prosecutors Grade I are made by the Government by promotion from among A. P. Ps Grade II. The Assistant Public Prosecutors are under the administrative and disciplinary control of the District Collector, though the Superintendent of Police has a general supervisory control over them. It may be noted that there are 4 Assistant Public Prosecutors in this District (One Grade I and three Grade II) as noted below:—

- 1 Assistant Public Prosecutor I, Alleppey
- 2 Assistant Public Prosecutor II, Alleppey
- 3 Assistant Public Prosecutor II, Kayamkulam
- 4 Assistant Public Prosecutor II, Chengannur

ELECTIONS

In any democracy the way the elections are held is of great importance. The Collector is the chief Electoral Officer at the District level. In this capacity he is responsible to see that the elections are held in a free and fair manner in his District. He is in over-all charge of items of work connected with the elections. The Collector has statutory, administrative and executive powers in this connection. He is the Returning Officer of the Parliamentary Constituencies. The Tahsildars are Electoral Registration Officers and revising authorities. The Collector is responsible for the supply storage, movement, distribution and accounting of all items of

election materials and equipment. He has to supervise all arrangements with regard to the conduct of the elections. He has also to arrange for proper bandobust and security during the period of polling and counting of votes at each centre.

DEVELOPMENT

With the advent of planning, the Collector enjoys a variety of functions connected with it. The District Officers of the concerned departments are treated as his Technical Assistants. The Collector has the power to require the presence of any District Officer or any other Government Officer in the District to assist him at any conference or at functions and to call for reports from them. In case of difference of opinion between the Collector and the District Officer in regard to non-technical matters, the District Officer shall carry out the directions of the Collector and then report the matter to his Head of the Department, if he considers it necessary. The tour programmes of the District Officers are to be sent to the District Collector in advance. Moreover, the Heads of Departments while on tour in the District are also to meet the Collector and discuss with him outstanding matters connected with their Departments. To facilitate such meetings, the Head of Departments are expected to send copies of their tour programmes to the District Collector for advance information. The confidential reports of the District Officers also pass through the Collector who can record his own remarks about the Officer concerned and this forms an effective weapon in the hands of the Collector to make his authority felt.

The Collector is the Chairman of the District Development Council. The Officers of all Departments concerned with Planning and Development are bound to give the District Collector information regarding the initiation and progress in schemes and also to give the District Collector information regarding the initiation and progress of schemes and also to give him all the facilities to inspect the works in progress. The Collector as the Chairman of the District Development Council may request any Head of the Department to be present at the meeting of the District Development Council. The Head of the Department concerned is supposed to attend such meetings unless he has other pressing engagements. In such cases the Head of the Department will inform the Collector of the position in advance and attend the next meeting of the Council.

The Collector is the co-ordinator par excellence of all Government activities in the District. In all developmental and planned

activities co-ordination is of great importance and the Collector imparts this vital element into the Governmental activity in the District. The most important field in this respect is agriculture. The Collector is responsible for augmenting the agricultural production of the District. The District agricultural Officer and the Additional District agricultural Officer have been declared Personal Assistants to the Collector. They are even expected to submit important files to the Collector for orders. There are 17 Community Development Blocks in the District. They have agricultural Extension Officers whose most important function is development of agriculture. The Collector is expected to control and guide all these activities and implement all the programmes satisfactorily.

RELATION WITH LOCAL BODIES

In Kerala the legislation regarding Panchayat Raj has not been passed, though the draft bill has been published. The Collector has however certain statutory functions under the Municipalities Act (1960) and the Kerala Panchayats Act (1960). These functions are given below:—

According to Section 43 of the Kerala Municipalities Act, the Collector, if authorised by the Government may exercise the following powers

- 1 To enter on and inspect, or cause to be entered on and inspected, any immovable property or any work in progress under the control of any Municipal authority.

- 2 To call for any document in the possession or under the control of any Council or Commissioner.

- 3 To require any Council or Commissioner to furnish any return, plan, estimate, statement, account or statistics, or any information or report on any Municipal matters.

- 4 To record in writing, for the consideration of the Council or Commissioner, any observations he may think proper in regard to its or his proceedings or duties.

Section 44 of the Act empowers the Collector to call upon the Commissioner to explain his failure to carry out any resolution of the Council and to send a report to the Government together with the explanation, if any, of the Commissioner, marking a copy of his report to the Council.

The Collector is also authorised under Section 45 (2) of the Act to suspend any resolution, order, licence, permission or Act passed

granted or done by the Council if in his opinion, immediate action is necessary on any of the grounds referred to in Section 45 (1) (e),

Under Section 46 of the Act the Collector may, in case of emergency, direct or provide for the execution of any work, or the doing of any act which the Council or the commissioner is empowered to execute or to do, and the immediate execution or the doing of which is, in his opinion, necessary for the safety of the public, and may direct that the expense of executing such act incurred as the emergency may require shall be paid from the Municipal Fund. (If such expense exceeds Rs. 500 the previous sanction of the Government has to be obtained).

Under Section 17(2) of the Kerala Panchayats Act if any question arises either before or after an election or nomination as to whether any person is or is not disqualified for becoming a member of a Panchayat under section 17(1) of the Panchayat Act., the matter will be referred to the Collector for his decision. According to Section 75 of the Panchayats Act, the Collector has to prescribe certain conditions under which an Executive authority of a Panchayat can, subject to such rules as may be prescribed, require the Village Officer having jurisdiction over the Panchayat area or any part thereof to collect any tax, cess or surcharge or fee due to the Panchayat.

Again Under Section 91 of the Panchayats Act prior sanction of the Collector is necessary for providing any stand or halting place for motor vehicles.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

The welfare activities of the Government are increasing day by day, and this has added considerably to the responsibilities of the Collector. The welfare functions or '*Ma Bhasp*' functions as they may be called, relate to the administration of Old Age Pensions, assistance to destitute widows, relief measures in times of emergencies like famine, floods, epidemics etc. The following powers are exercised by the Collector in this regard:-

Nature of power	Extent
1 To sanction Old Age Pension.	Upto Rs. 15 each case.
2 To sanction grant under "Famine Relief" victims of natural calamities	Upto Rs. 2,500.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 To sanction grants under "discretionary grants". | Not exceeding Rs.50 per mensem in extra-ordinary case subject to annual expenditure of Rs. 2,000. |
| 4 To sanction financial assistance to agriculturists for loss of crops on account of natural calamities. | No limit. |
| 5 To sanction loans for housing scheme. | Upto Rs. 20,000. |
| 6 To sanction financial assistance to indigent T.B. patients. | At Rs. 30 per mensem Upto a maximum of 6 months. |
| 7 To sanction discretionary grant to the families affected by natural calamities. | Upto Rs. 50. |
| 8 To sanction grant-in-aid to physically disabled and handicapped destitute. | Rs. 15 per mensem. |
| 9 To sanction pension to destitute widows. | Upto Rs. 20 per mensem |

The Collector is also responsible for the welfare activities carried out through the N. E. S. Blocks. In this connection he has been empowered to discharge the following functions:- (1) To sanction individual 'Schemes' within the approved programme, the cost of which does not exceed Rs. one lakh and which does not involve appointment of staff borne on regular establishment. (2) To accord administrative approval and to sanction expenditure within the approved programme for individual items of 'work' upto a limit of Rs. one lakh according to the general procedure outlined by the Government. (3) To sanction loans within approved programme upto Rs. 10,000 in each case, and loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Agricultural Loans Act upto Rs. 5,000 in each case.

MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS

The Collector is the Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority which is a statutory body exercising statutory functions. In this capacity he exercises many of the powers under the Motor Vehicles Act. The District Information Officer functions according to the instructions and guidance given by the Collector. The Collector is also a member of the District Recruitment Board of which

a member of the Public Service Commission is the Chairman, and he is thus associated with the process of selection of candidates for appointments to certain categories of posts under Government. The Collector is also made responsible for the National small Saving collection and the collections to the State Loans and the National Defence Fund. He is also the Chairman and member of a large number of committees and organisations functioning at the District level. A list of such committees and organisations which is given at Appendix will illustrate the variety of miscellaneous responsibilities which the District Collector, Alleppey has to shoulder.

It will be clear from the foregoing analysis that the functions and responsibilities of the Collector are many and varied. His position is more than one of *primus inter pares*. It is even more than that of the Captain of a team. While guiding the activities of other Departments, he has to exhibit a great amount of patience, tact and goodwill. All the activities of the Government in the District depend mainly on the Collector and the way he does it will determine its effectiveness and usefulness to the public.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

With a view to ensuring the sustained interest of the people and making them give positive help and guidance to the Collector in the satisfactory discharge of his duties in the field of general administration various non-statutory bodies consisting of official and non-official members have been set up in all Districts of Kerala. The most important of such bodies is the District Development Council with the Collector as Chairman. It consists of official and non-official members. The following is the general set-up of the Councils:—

(1) All M. P.s in the District (where the Constituency of an M. P. extends to more than one District) he shall be a member in both or all the respective D. D. Cs)

(2) All M. L. As in the District (where the Constituency of an M. L. A. extends to more than one District) he shall be a member in both or all the respective D. D. Cs)

(3) Chairman of the Municipality of District Head Quarters including Mayors, Trivandrum & Kozhikodes)

(4) One representative of the Co-operative Movement to be nominated by Government.

(5) One representative of the Panchayats from each Block in the District.

(6) Members of the State Planning Advisory Board (other than M. L. As & M. Ps.) residing in the District.

(7) Non-Official Members of the National Savings State Advisory Board residing in the District.

(8) One Agriculturist.

(9) A maximum of five Members representing other interests of which one shall be a lady.

(10) All the District Officers of the Development Departments

The functions of the Council include (1) advising on the formation of the annual plan of development for the District within the general framework of the State Five Year Plan, (2) reviewing progress in the implementation of approved programmes of development; (3) recommending measures for the effective and speedy fulfilment of schemes of economic and social development and more especially of national extension and community projects, agricultural programmes local development works, social services and village industries; (4) promoting public co-operation and participation in development programmes and expanding local community effort both in urban and rural areas; (5) assisting the development of co-operatives and Village Panchayats; (6) promoting the small savings movement; (7) supervising the work of Village Panchayats in respect of land reform, and management and rural development generally; (8) enlisting the active association and co-operation of teachers, students and others in the study and development of local resources; (9) providing opportunities for general education through fairs, exhibitions, seminars etc. and (10) training of members of Panchayats and Co-operatives.

The meetings of the District Development Council were held once in a month till recently in order to review the progress of the work. However, following the declaration of Emergency in the country by the President of India in October 1962 Government issued orders that as a measure of economy the District Development Councils need meet only once in two months. The agenda of the meeting and the progress reports are distributed among the members in advance. The non official members make detailed enquiries about the progress of the works and the District Officers supply them with the requisite information. Each item of work to be undertaken is placed on the agenda at the request of the official

members and a general discussion takes place. The D-D C. Councils form sub-Committees for speedy transaction of business, when considered necessary. There are two such sub-Committees of the DDC Alleppey for dealing with matters pertaining to food and public works respectively.

BLOCK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Block Development Committee is constituted in each Block to advise and help the Block Development Officer in carrying out the development works of the Block area. Originally constituted in 1957 as Block Advisory Committees, the Block Development Committees, as they are now called, consist of (1) M.L.As. and M.Ps. representing the Block area, (2) representatives of Panchayats not exceeding seven in number, (3) two Social Workers including a woman, (4) one representative of the Social Welfare Board, (5) one representative of the Bharat Sevak Samaj, (6) the Chairman of the Municipalities falling within the Block area, (7) two or three prominent non-officials whose association with the Committee would be beneficial and (8) one representative of the Harijans. The Thasildar of the Taluk is also a member of the Block Development Committee. The Revenue Divisional Officer of the area concerned is the Chairman and the Block Development Officer, the Convener of the Committee. The Block Development Committee is normally constituted during the pre-extension period of a Block so that it may start functioning from the beginning of the Stage I period. The Committee will continue to function during the Stage I and Stage II periods and will be dissolved during the Post-Stage II period. The function of the Block Development Committee is purely advisory. The approval of the schematic budget, scheme works, location of headquarters and other institutions in the Block are its major advisory functions. The meetings of the Committee are to be held every month.

THE DISTRICT RECRUITMENT BOARD

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Committee (1958), a District Recruitment Board for each of the eleven Districts of Kerala was constituted with a member of the Public Service Commission as Chairman and the District Collector as member. The District Recruitment Board, Alleppey began functioning in October 1959. The function of the Board is to make selection for the following categories of posts in the public services of the State.

- (1) All posts on a pay of Rs. 35 or less.
- (2) Non-technical posts for which the minimum educational qualification is lower than a pass in the S.S.L.C. Examination.
- (3) Minor technical posts such as drivers, fitters, mechanics, boatmen etc., even though the minimum pay attached to them may be above Rs. 35.

There are more than 400 categories of posts belonging to the various Departments in the list of posts ear marked for recruitment through the District Recruitment Board. The selection made by the District Recruitment Board are treated as those made by the Public Service Commission. The general rules followed by the Kerala Public Service Commission as well as the rules of procedure of the Kerala Public Service Commission and the Kerala State and Subordinate Rules (1958) are generally applicable to the selections of the District Recruitment Board. The recruitment to posts is made by the Board after interviewing the candidates. The particulars of the number of candidates advised by the District Recruitment Board Alleppey for recruitment during each of the years from 1960 to 1966 are given below:-

Year	No. of candidates
1960	83
1961	103
1962	208
1963	190
1964	101
1965	139
1966	268

OFFICES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

A good number of State Government offices function in Alleppey at the District level. Administratively they are under the control of their respective Heads of Departments. The functions of the most important District offices are given in the relevant Chapters. A list of chief officers functioning at the District level in Alleppey is given below:-

- 1 The District Agricultural Officer, Alleppey
- 2 The Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Alleppey
- 3 The Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Chegannur
- 4 The Deputy registrar of Co-operative Societies, Alleppey
- 5 The Revenue Divisional Officer, Alleppey

- 6 The Revenue Divisional Officer, Chengannur
- 7 The Punja Special Officer, Alleppey
- 8 The District Veterinary Officer, Alleppey
- 9 The District Industries Officer, Alleppey
- 10 The Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Alleppey
- 11 The Executive Engineer (Electricity) Pallom
- 12 The Executive Engineer, (Electricity) Mavelikara
- 13 The District Educational Officer, Alleppey
- 14 The District Educational Officer, Tiruvalla
- 15 The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Alleppey
- 16 The District Medical Officer, Alleppey
- 17 The District Statistical Officer, Alleppey
- 18 The District Employment Officer, Alleppey
- 19 The District Welfare Officer, Alleppey
- 20 The District Information Officer, Alleppey
- 21 The Village Industries Officer, Alleppey
- 22 The District Educational Officer, Mavelikara
- 23 The District Panchayat Officer, Alleppey
- 24 The Project Officer, Rural Industries Project, Alleppey
- 25 The Joint Director of Agriculture, Alleppey
- 26 The District Soil Conservation Officer, Alleppey
- 27 The District Probation Officer, Alleppey
- 28 The District Labour Officer, Alleppey
- 29 The District Employment Officer, Alleppey
- 30 The Regional Transport Officer, Alleppey
- 31 The Port Officer, Alleppey

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

The most important of the Central Government Offices or officers functioning in the District are the following:-

- 1 The Executive Officer
- 2 The Income Tax Officer
- 3 The M.E.S. Office, Military
- 4 The Research Survey Centre, Central Marine and Fisheries Research Station
- 5 The Superintendent of Post Offices

APPENDIX

List of Bodies, Organisations, Committees etc. in which District Collector is the President, Chairman or Member

Name of Committee	Function
1 District Development Council	Chairman
2 District Advisory Committee for Harijan Welfare	do
3 Regional Transport Authority Meeting	do
4 Advisory Committee for Home Guards	do
5 District Hospital Advisory Committee	do
6 District Family Planning Advisory Committee	do
7 Food Advisory Committee	do
8 Citizens' Council	do
9 District Jurisdiction Committee	do
10 Project Implementation Committee (Rural Industries)	do
11 District Land Development Committee	do
12 District Red Cross Committee	do
13 District Child Welfare Committee	do
14 Flood Co-ordination Board	do
15 District Sports Council	do
16 Prime Minister's Trophy Boat Race Committee	do
17 Defence Committee - its Sub-Committee	do
18 Committee on Social and moral hygiene	do
19 Celebration Committee like Republic Day, August 15th, Vanamaholsava, Wild Life Day, etc. etc.	do
20 District Traffic Board	do
21 State Level Co-ordination Committee for Package Programme	Member
22 Project State Level Committee for Industries	do
23 District Recruitment Board, Alleppey	do
24 T. D. Medical College Governing Body	do

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

LAND TENURES

The lands in this District as elsewhere in the erstwhile Travancore State have been classified under two main categories viz., *Janmam* lands belonging to *Janmies* or landlords and *Pandaravaka* lands belonging to the Sirkar. The historical factors which shaped the principles regulating the ownership and possession of land have already been dealt with in detail in District Gazetteers compiled earlier in this series and it is not necessary to repeat them here. The word *Janmam* has been interpreted to mean exclusive ownership of the soil and the *Janmam* property as the absolute private property of the owner or proprietor. The *Janmam* lands were generally tax-free and the *Janmies* as a rule never alienated land by absolute sale except to other *janmies*, whether *Brahmaswams* or *Devaswams*.

The *Janmam* lands were divided into three classes, viz., (1) lands that were entirely free hold and exempt from payment of any kind of tax to Government under any circumstances (2) lands originally exempt from payment of tax but subsequently became liable under certain conditions and (3) lands paying *Raja-bhogam* or light tax from the very beginning.

In the first class were comprised (1) *Desams* of the Edappalli Raja lying in the Karthikapally and Tiruvalla Taluks (2) the *Desams* attached to Kaviyur temple (Tiruvalla), (3) the *Desams* attached to Panayanarkavu Bhagavathy (Tiruvalla), (4) the *Desams* belonging to Akavur Nambuthiripad in Karthikapally and Mavelikara Taluks and (5) the *Desams* belonging to Vanchipuzha Pandarathi (Chengannur). In the revenue accounts of the Government these lands are termed *Adhikara Oshivu* or *Desa Oshivu*. They comprised compact blocks of territory and were absolutely exempt from tax of any kind and from all Government interference in the matter of Revenue Administration,

Under the second class were comprised (1) *Devaswam* properties and (2) the *Brahmaswams* or holdings of Malayali Brahmins. Originally these lands were exempt from tax but when they passed into the hands of those other than *Devaswam* or *Brahmaswam Janmies* for money consideration they became liable to a light tax called

Rajabhogam. The property so taxed became subject to escheat and then was taken over by the Sirkar if the tenant were to die without heir.

Under the third class were comprised the holdings of various thieves and others including *Madampimar*. These lands were subject to *Rajabhogam* from the very beginning. The tenure held good so far as the land was not alienated by sale.

The *Janmam* lands have in recent years lost their original characteristics. The Janmi and Kudiyan Acts gave the tenants of these lands full proprietary right subject to the payment of *Janmikaram* to the *Janmis*. These lands were also later subjected to basic tax. The properties of the Edappalli chiefs in the Tiruvalla and Karthikapally Taluks were assumed by the Government under the provisions of the Edavaka Rights Acquisition Act 1955 which came into force on January 1, 1956 and the Edappalli Chief was duly compensated by the Government. Land tax was also levied on these lands under existing rules. Properties which belonged to the Vanchipuzha Chief were also assumed by the Government by the close of 1955. The Kerala Janmikaram Payment Abolition Act of 1960 has since provided for the abolition of the payment of *Janmikaram*.

Lands other than *Janmam* are known as *Pandaravaka* or Government (Sirkar) property. Such lands come mainly under three categories:—(1) *Poramboke*, (2) *Tarisa* and (3) Registered lands. *Poramboke* lands are those which are used or reserved for public purposes or for the communal use of the villagers. The total area of *Poramboke* lands in Alleppey District in 1964-65 came to 60,302.63 acres. The *Tarisa* lands are waste lands at the disposal of the Government and are available for registry. The total extent of *Tarisa* lands in this District came to 3,278 acres 99 cents in 1964-65. The bulk of the Sirkar lands are registry lands coming under *Pandaravaka*. The State is the owner or landlord and all rights of the ryots are derived from the Sirkar. The registered lands come under two categories viz. Wet Lands (*Nilams*) and Dry Lands (*Parambas*). The extent of the wet lands in this District in 1964-65 was 174,029 acres 43 cents and dry lands 217,952 acres 29 cents.

The Taluk wise statement of the extent of lands under *Poramboke*, *Tarisa* and Registered Lands is given below:-

AREA UNDER DIFFERENT TENURE 1964-65

		Peramboke	Tarisu	Registered Land	
				Wet	Dry
Total		60,302.63	3,278.99	174,029.43	217,982.29
1	Ambalapuzha	9774.59	844.35	13,935.33	19,205.90
2	Sbertalai	19,866.91	154.43	22,511.33	36,655.71
3	Kaithikapally	8,283.68	469.18	26,837.93	20,853.29
4	Kuttanad	8,428.76	71.76	57,060.81	5,715.54
5	Mavelikara	4,472.15	553.34	21,375.37	43,914.29
6	Chengannur	3,538.93	44.09	14,988.39	31,096.83
7	Tiruvalla	5,937.61	1,141.84	17,320.27	60,540.73

It may be noted that there have been some *Kandukrishi* lands also in the Alleppey District. The *Kanaukrishi* lands were the *Sthanam* property of the Maharaja of Travancore. They lay distributed in all taluks except Sertalai. The major portion of the *Kanaukrishi* lands, i.e., about 6,000 acres in extent lay in Kuttanad Taluk.¹ The tenants in these lands had no rights. They were settled on the same principles as tenants in other lands and were allowed to enjoy benefits subject only to the payment of *Pattam*. The Maharaja surrendered all the rights on the *Kandukrishi* lands to the Government and they have since been assigned to tenants on registry under rule specially framed for the purpose. The tenants are subject to payment of 8½ times the *Pattam* in rural areas and 45 times the *Pattam* in Municipal areas. The total extent of *Kandukrishi* lands available for registry in the District was 13,279 acres and 17 cents. Out of this 12,520 acres and 56 cents were assigned till 1964-65 leaving only an area of 758 acres and 61 cents. The compensation amount levied on this item came to Rs. 26,95,891.59.

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

The first settlement in Travancore of which there is any record is that of 948 K. E. (1772-73 A. D.). It comprised all cultivated areas, both fields and gardens, but it was not accurate as it was only a *Kottazhu* or a record of what was heard, i.e., such

¹ Even today the rice for use in the palace of the Maharaja of Travancore Amrutari as it is called, is sent from Nedumudi village under the supervision of the Village Officer.

information as was gathered by a personal conference with the holders of the land. The next settlement was in 978 K. E. (1802-03 A.D.) i.e., 30 years later. It also comprised both fields and gardens. As in the earlier settlement no actual measurements were taken this time also, but the area and assessment were fixed after local inspection. In other words the new settlement was a *Kandezhu/hu*, or a record of what was seen and was therefore more reliable. During both these settlements an estimate was made of the seed capacity of each field in terms of *para* and area and assessment on each field was fixed on the basis of this estimate. The assessment on wet lands was generally made payable partly in paddy and partly in money. Moreover, those garden and dry lands which contained trees were subjected to a tree tax which was also fixed both in kind and money. Pure dry lands which contained no taxable trees were assessed on their seed capacity.

The next settlement was in 993 K. E. (1818 A. D.) which comprised only the garden and dry lands. It was carried out more or less on the lines of the previous settlement. There was another settlement in 1012 K. E. (1837 A. D.) which was also confined to garden and dry lands. The taking of field measurements and the adoption of different rates for different classes of coconut trees were the salient features of this settlement. Apart from the coconuts other trees like jack, areca, palmyrah, mango, etc. were also assessed to revenue. The settlement was not based on any uniform principle and numerous and varying rates were assessed for each kind of tree in each taluk.

These earlier settlements were defective in many respects. They made no attempt to assess with any accuracy the area of each holding, its exact boundaries or the classification of the soil. No field or village maps or sketches of any kind were prepared. The revenue accounts were not brought up to date with the transfer of properties registered so much so the revenue officials did not know on whom to call for collection of arrears, if any. Further no unit of measurement was recognised or followed. To make matters worse, there was glaring inequality in assessment as no consideration was given to the nature of the soil, facilities of cultivation, or the produce grown on the land. The settlement of 1012 K. E. (1837 A. D.) also contemplated periodical revision of garden lands once in twelve years with a view to ensuring increase of Government revenue, but such periodical revisions were not carried out. In view

of these drawbacks and difficulties a special department was organised in Travancore in 1876-77 to study and report on the question. One or two small tracts of territory was experimentally surveyed and the principles of the new settlement formulated and certain proposals made. Subsequently it was resolved to carry out a survey of the whole Travancore State which was to be followed by a Revenue Settlement. These were announced by the Royal Proclamation of Kumbham 14, 1061 (February 24, 1886 A. D.).

The main features of the new survey and settlement, were declared to be accurate measurement, demarcation, mapping out, valuation of properties of every description, and registration of titles as the basis of sound revenue administration. A uniform standard of land measurement in acres and cents and of grains in *Paras* and *edangazhis* was laid down. Several old cesses were abolished. The assessment of garden lands was made permanent without periodical revision. Many taxes were made uniform. Moreover, on the settlement being made each land holder was also to be provided with a *zatto* showing the particulars of his land the assessment due thereon, the deductions therefrom, the net demand etc. The settlement was to be declared unalterable for 30 years. In pursuance of this Proclamation the Survey and Settlement Departments were organised. The settlement was completed by the end of Midunam 1085 (July 1910).

The settlement of 1061 K.E. (1886) proved unsatisfactory and caused vast disparities in the incidence of taxation. In regard to dry lands the method adopted in the earlier settlements, viz., taxing both the land and the trees standing thereon, was given up and new rates were adopted which were very heavy. The result was that similar lands situated in the same locality had to pay different rates of assessment. Land holders who had to pay, say 14 np. (4 *chukrams*) before the settlement, had after the settlement to pay Rupee 1 (28 *chackrams*) per acre. Ryots enjoying trees such as coconut, jack, arecanut, etc., had to pay only light taxes. The very same kind of trees which were taxed in south Travancore (e. g., mango, palm, rah etc.) were exempted from tax in North Travancore. Certain fertile piece of land, by virtue of their location in hilly tracts or places far off from markets, had to be classified under a lower *taram* fixing low rates of assessment. Even though conditions had since changed, holders of these lands still continued to pay only lower taxes while owners who held the same kinds of land in other places paid very

high rates. Lands under favourable tenures were assessed only with a portion of the full assessment while those under some other tenures were charged with full assessment. Favourably assessed lands, it may be noted, came to 25 % of the total tax paying lands in Travancore State.

SYSTEMS OF SURVEY

An accurate survey is an essential requirement of a settlement to bring as near a relation as possible between enjoyment and the revenue accounts showing the same. It is also necessary for the preparation of a correct account of the lands and for statistical and administrative purposes. It might be relevant in this connection to describe the different systems of survey which were adopted for purposes of revenue settlement in this District. Cadastral survey as the basis of the revenue settlement was for the first time introduced in Travancore in 1053 K.E. (1882-83) and it was conducted on the lines of the system prevalent in the Madras Presidency from time to time. The systems prevailing in Madras were adopted in Travancore one after the other. They are the following:-

1. **Tak System:-** The first system adopted was known as the 'Tak system or the Triangulation system'. Under this method no distinction was made between revenue and survey fields, and the chances of error were small. The use of sub-numbers and letters in addition to the survey numbers to denote the individual holdings was exceptional under this system. The survey maps prepared under this system facilitated ready reference to properties. Owing to the exceptionally small area of holdings in Travancore, the irregular shape of field boundaries and the undulating and wooded character of the surface of the country, the progress of survey operations under the 'Tak' system was considerably hampered. The system was also costly.

2. **Base lines and Offsets -** A new method known as the system of 'Base' lines and 'Offsets' was introduced about the close of 1063 K.E. (1887-88). Under this altered method, a distinction was made between survey fields and revenue fields. Unlike under the Tak system, no revenue field was to be separately demarcated, but several such fields were clubbed together, up to an extent of 6 acres in wet and 12 acres in dry lands, to form survey fields, and each revenue field though not demarcated, was to be separately measured and entered in a sketch book with particulars as to the relative position, measurement, tenure and area. The bends and triangulations

on the boundaries of revenue and survey fields, were fixed by offsets from long chain lines running between Khandom stations and certain intermediate points where necessary. Though the revenue fields were not separately surveyed, the sketch-book which gave their areas was sufficient for settlement in respect of wet lands and unplanted dry lands which were assessed on the basis of the area. But in the case of gardens or plantations in which the assessment was rated on the trees, the system proved defective. With one survey number covering several revenue fields, each of which had a sub-number and the subdivisions again marked by letter in some cases, the processes of classification, assessment on the block system, and the preparation of field records for individual settlement were attended with great difficulty and delay. Certain modifications were made in 1074 K. E. (1898-99) in the system introduced in 1063 K. E. (1887-88). These consisted of the confining of the entry in the field sketches to the side measurements of the holdings the lettering of the ends of chain lines and the entry in separate field books of the offsets taken on these lines.

(3) System of Triangles and Offsets:—In the year 1078 K. E. (1902-03) a further change of the system was made¹. It was known as the system of 'Triangles and Offsets'. Under this method, unlike in the two previous systems, the survey fields were split up into large triangles by lines running from trijunction to trijunction as far as possible and offsets taken up to the bends on the sides of survey fields and revenue fields within each. The survey field was thus made capable of independent plotting. All surveys which were undertaken subsequently have been carried out in this system.

A statement showing the dates of commencement and completion of survey operations under the system of Base lines and Offsets in the Taluks then comprised in the District is given below.

	Date of commencement of operations	Date of completion of operations
Ambalapuzha	1066 (1890-91)	1076 (1891-92)
Karthikapally	1060 (1884-85)	1065 (1889-90)
Mavelikara	1066 (1890-91)	1068 (1892-93)
Tiruvalla	1067 (1891-92)	1068 (1892-93)
Chengannur	1067 (1891-92)	1069 (1893-94)
Shertallai	1071 (1895-96)	1073 (1897-98)

¹ The date given as 1098 K. E. in the Quilon District Gazetteer [p. 502] is not correct. The correct date is 1078 K. E. (1902-03)

BASIC TAX

After the settlement of 1885 A. D. no attempt was made at a comprehensive resettlement in Travancore. The Government subsequently gave up the entire idea of a resettlement and introduced a new system of land tax. This tax known as the 'Basic Tax' was introduced by the famous Land Tax Proclamation issued by the Maharaja of Travancore in 1121 K. E. (1945-46). The introduction of basic tax served more or less the purpose of a general revenue settlement. According to this system all lands irrespective of the nature of the tenures, the kinds of crops raised or the actual yield from them were subject to a basic tax at the rate of 2 nP, per cent. The table given below shows the amount assessed to basic tax in the various Taluks of the District in 1964-65.

DETAILS OF LAND ASSESSED TO BASIC TAX (TALUK-WISE) 1964-65

Name of Taluk	Total Basic Tax
Total	Rs. P.
Ambalapuzha	783,763.35
Shertallai	66,271.48
Karthikapally	118,443.48
Kuttanad	98,781.82
Mavelikara	120,106.11
Chengannur	1,115.73
Tiruvalla	9,596.15
	186,408.58

It may be mentioned in this connection that the levy of basic tax was discontinued in Kerala following the invalidation of the Kerala Land Tax Act (1961) by the Kerala High Court in 1962. However, consequent to the enactment of the Constitution Seventeenth Amendment Act (1964) which includes the Kerala Land Tax Act (1961) in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution the system of Basic Tax has been reintroduced.

PLANTATION TAX

The Kerala Plantation (Additional Tax) Act 1950 came into force on April 1, 1960. According to this Act all holders of Plantations, irrespective of their capacity, as owners, tenants, mortgagees, trustees, receivers, managers or in any other capacity are liable to pay, in addition to the basic tax, a plantation tax at the following rates specified in the schedule of the Act.

	Extent	Rate
1	Where the aggregate extent of plantations held by the person is below five acres	Nil
2	Where the aggregate extent of plantations held by a person is below five acres or more:	
	(a) on the first two acres	Nil
	(b) on the remaining extent	Rs. 8- per acre

It may be noted that 'Plantation' for the purpose of this Act includes coconut trees, arecanut trees, rubber, coffee, tea and cardamom plants and pepper vine. The extent of plantations held by a person may ordinarily be revised at the end of five years. The following table shows the number of assesses and the amount assessed to plantation tax in each of the Taluks of the District.

Plantation Tax Assessment (1964-65)

Taluks	Number of Assesses	Amount assessed Rs.
Total.	1,207	163,304.15
Ambalapuzha	238	54,266.96
Shertallai	447	62,615.08
Karthikappally	240	23,769.36
Kuttanad	35	7,684.48
Mavelikara	137	2,537.81
Chengannur	16	997.16
Tiruvalla	94	11,433.30

IRRIGATION CESS

As per the provisions of the Irrigation Act, an irrigation cess of Rs 3.50 per acre or 3% on the capital expenditure incurred by the Government, whichever is less, is recoverable from the cultivators in respect of all minor irrigation works. The following statement gives Taluk wise details of irrigation cess assessed and collected during the year 1964-65.

Irrigation Cess Assessment 1964-65

Taluk	Demand Rs.	Collection Rs.	Balance Rs.
1 Chengannur	1,491.37	461.72	1,029.65
2 Tiruvalla	10,969.23	2,442.07	4,172.69
3 Shertallai	27,826.47	3,285.24	24,541.23

BUILDING TAX

A tax on buildings, the floor area of which exceeds 1,000 sq. ft. is being levied according to the Building Tax Act 1961. The rates of tax are given below.

Less than 1,000 sq.ft.	Nil
1,000 to 2,000 sq.ft.	10 Np.
2,001 to 4,000 sq.ft.	20 „
4,001 to 8,000 sq.ft.	30 „
8,001 to 12,000 sq.ft.	40 „
Above 12,000 sq.ft.	50 „

A Taluk-wise statement of the number of assessees and amount assessed under Building Tax in the Alleppy District for the year 1964-65 is given below.

Demand and Collection under Building Tax (1964-65)

Name of Taluk	Number of assessees	Amount assessed Rs.
Total:	1,717	347,365.93
Ambalapuzha	145	39,038.37
Chertallai	195	30,029.98
Karthikapally	159	36,564.10
Kuttanad	85	21,500.77
Mavelikkara	176	38,048.77
Chengannur	314	53,399.00
Tiruvalla	649	128,787.94

It may be mentioned that buildings owned by the State Government, Central Government or any local authority and buildings used principally for religious, charitable or educational purpose or as workshops are not assessable to building tax under Section 3 (1) and (2) of the Act. The Thasildar is assessing authority and the Revenue Divisional Officer the appellate authority.¹

LAND Assignment

As per the provisions of the Kerala Land Assignment Rules 1958, Land Assignment Advisory Committees were formed in all the seven Taluks of the Alleppy District. The land assignment

¹ The Kerala Building Tax Act was struck down as unconstitutional by a judgment of the Kerala High Court in 1964-65,

rules were revised during 1964 and there is no Advisory Committee for Land Assignment under the new Rules. Hence no Land Assignment Committee is functioning in this District at present.

The total area available for assignment and the area already assigned in each Taluk till 1964 are given below.

Name of Taluk	Area available for assignment		Area already assigned	
	A	C	A	C
Total	6,038	40	755	52
Shertallai	120	02	41	36
Ambalapuzha	905	78	42	79
Kuttanad	238	96	176	41
Kaithikapally	4,123	94	212	25
Mavelikara	497	12	226	50
Chengannur	84	18	44	88
Tiruvalla	68	40	11	33

Steps for the assignment of the remaining area are in progress.

LAND ACQUISITION

The Land Acquisition work in this District is carried on in accordance with the instructions contained in the Kerala Land Acquisition Manual which came into force in the whole of the State of Kerala on April 1, 1963. The District Collector is the Land Acquisition Officer under the Act. But his powers have been delegated to the Revenue Divisional Officers, Alleppey and Chengannur. In addition there is also a Special Land Acquisition Officer attached to the P. W. D. Southern Circle, Trivandrum who has jurisdiction over this District as well. A statement of the land acquired in this District and the total amount of compensation paid for each of the years from 1957-63 is given below.

Year	Total extent of land.			Total amount of compensation paid Rs.
	A.	C.	Sq. L.	
1957-58	197	57	264	9,36,322.07
1958-59	183	09	618	6,40,072.61
1959-60	72	63	410	4,34,688.68
1960-61	54	83	865	2,16,713.00
1961-62	34	21	911	3,09,091.00
1962-63	276	54	451	11,79,065.16

LAND REFORMS

The Royal Proclamation of Edavam 21,1040 K. E. (2nd June 1865) is the earliest attempt at land reform in Travancore. This Proclamation which has been looked upon as the "Magna Carta of Travancore ryot" enfranchised the Sirkar *Pattam* lands and converted the large body of ryots from the position of mere tenants at-will to that of full proprietors. By this Proclamation the ryots were conferred ownership rights, heritable, saleable and otherwise transferable subject to the obligation of paying the tax assessed on them. The ryot could hereafter invest his labour and capital and effect substantial improvements on the land. It was clearly laid down that Government would acquire these lands only for public purposes, and that whenever such acquisition was made, compensation would be paid not only for the ryot's improvements but also for the land itself. The Proclamation conferred on the ryot fixity of tenure by checking arbitrary evictions of all kinds and by restricting the demand for exorbitant claims by the Government. Following the Proclamation several vexatious taxes were abolished and strict orders were issued that the maximum rate of land tax which was prescribed by the Proclamation should not be exceeded.

The Proclamation of Karkalakam 25, 1042 K.E. (August 8, 1867) is also another measure of far-reaching consequence. It was promulgated to guarantee to the tenants of the *jenmam* lands permanency of occupation right and to prohibit their indiscriminate eviction from land ensuring at the same time the payment of all legitimate dues to the *jenmis*. The rights and obligations of the landlord and the tenant were thus equitably adjusted to their mutual advantage.

An important Act passed in 1068 K. E. (1892-1893) abolished the old practice of unrestrained coercive processes and laid down a legal procedure to safeguard the interests of land holders. The Janmi-Kudiyan Act of 1071 K. E. (1895-96) made detailed provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of *Janmis* and tenants in furtherance of the Proclamation of 1042. The next land mark in the history of land reforms is the Janmi-Kudiyan (Amendment) Regulation of 1108 K. E. (1132-33). Far-reaching changes were made by this Regulation. The *jenmis* who were regarded as landholders were practically reduced to the position of persons entitled merely to certain dues called *Janmi-karam* which are a charge on the land. The tenants became practically the owners of the land subject to the payment of the *jenmi*.

dues. Those *janmi's* dues which were payable on specific occasions were converted into annual payment which added along with the annual *michavaram* were termed *Janmikaram*.

In spite of the various attempts made now and then to protect the right of the tenants complaints of evictions continued to be heard from various sources. Hence the subject of land reforms and protection of the tenant rights received the serious attention of the Government in the post-Independence era. The Travancore-Cochin Government passed the Stay of Execution Proceedings Act in 1950 in order to give protection to the ryots from arbitrary eviction. After the birth of Kerala State the Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings Act 1957 was passed to stay eviction of tenants, *Kudikidappukar* and certain other classes of person cultivating land under various tenures pending the enactment of a comprehensive legislation relating to tenancy and agrarian reforms. In 1958 was passed the Kerala Agriculturists Debt Reliefs Act. It provided for repayment of debts incurred prior to June 1, 1940. This was a measure intended to help the agriculturists. Another important legislative measure was the Kerala Compensation for Tenants Improvement Act 1958 which provides for compensation to tenants at the rate of 15 times the net annual yield for trees planted by them and actual value for permanent structures put up by them. The Act conferred on the tenants the right to compensation for improvements effected by them even if there is a contract to the contrary stipulated in the deed providing for lease or *otti*.

The most revolutionary piece of land reform introduced in Kerala in recent years is the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act of 1960 (Act I of 1961) which has now become defunct. The Act sought to fix a ceiling on the extent of land that could be held by a family or by any adult unmarried person. All lands in excess of the ceiling were to be surrendered to the Government on payment of compensation. Lands so surrendered were to be distributed among the landless. The tenants were also given fixity of tenure over their holdings and they could be evicted by the landlord only in very exceptional circumstances. Moreover, fair rents in respect of holdings were to be fixed by Land Tribunals set up for the purpose. It was while the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act (1960) was being progressively implemented that the Kerala High Court delivered two important judgements in 1962 declaring some of the provisions of the Act as unconstitutional in their application to the Malabar

and Travancore areas of the State. In the wake of these judicial decisions, the Kerala Tenants and *Kudikidappukars* Protection Ordinance was promulgated by the Governor in December 1962. It provided for the stay of all suits and proceedings for eviction of tenants from their holdings as well as for the recovery of arrears of rent which accrued due from a tenant before 15th February 1961. The Ordinance was later replaced by an Act of the Legislature in 1963. The Kerala Agrarian Relations Act was also in the meantime removed from the statute book pending the enactment of a more comprehensive and flawless legislation pertaining to tenancy and agrarian reforms.

While reviewing the position, Government kept in view: (1) the broad principles of land reform as enunciated in the Five Year Plans, (2) the basic aims of the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act, (3) the need for doing justice to all sections of the population, (4) the necessity for reducing the strain on the finances of the State and (5) the desirability of having a law which is capable of smooth and easy administration. After examining the matter the Government came to the conclusion that it was better to enact a new piece of legislation. Thus the Kerala Land Reforms Act (1963) came to be enacted. The new law remedies the defects and difficulties that existed in the old Act as below.

(1) The discrimination shown in the fixation of rates of fair rent in Malabar and other areas of the State has been given up. The rates of fair rent have been made uniform throughout the State and these conform to the general principles laid down in the Five Year Plans.

(2) The small-holder has been given a reasonable deal in the fixation of fair rent and in the Malabar area, in the surrendering of his rights to the cultivating tenant.

(3) The religious institutions have been guaranteed the income that they were deriving on the 21st January, 1961

(4) The jurisdiction of civil courts to interrupt the proceedings before a Land Tribunal has been barred,

(5) The cultivating tenants do not have to wait for the State to step in for purchasing the rights of landlords. They could apply directly for purchasing those rights soon after the Act was brought into force,

(6) The land Tribunal is empowered to adjudicate whether a person is a tenant or not, A person has now got the right to move

the Land Tribunal to prepare a record of his rights and the Land Tribunal has been given facilities to prepare it.

(7) The classification of lands and the prescription of equivalents for purposes of ceiling have been done on a more rational basis following the scientific data available with the Bureau of Economic and Statistics.

(8) Existing pure pepper and pure arecanut gardens which are contiguous and five acres and more in extent have been exempted from the imposition of ceiling,

(9) The anomalous treatment given to an adult unmarried person has been removed,

(10) The slab system of awarding compensations has been dispensed with.

The Act confers three main benefits on the cultivating tenant. Firstly, he is given security of tenure and consequently he cannot be evicted. Secondly, he is given the right to pay not more than the fair rent fixed under the Act. Thirdly, he is given the right to purchase the landlord's rights and become the full owner of the land. These rights accrue subject to certain obligations. Certain categories of lands and tenancies are also excluded from the purview of the provisions of the Act. The more important amongst them relate to occupation of Government land, escheat lands and tenancies created by official receivers of courts, court of wards etc. Section 3 of the Act explains the various categories. In order that there might be no further complications in the nature of tenurial relationship henceforth it has been laid down in the Act that no future tenancies will be valid in law except when the tenancies are created by (1) a minor, (2) a widow, (3) an unmarried woman, (4) a divorced woman, (5) a person incapable of cultivating land by reason of any physical or mental disability, or (6) a serving member of the Armed Forces or a seaman.

It has been recognised as an essential principle of land reform that special protection should be given to landlords who own small holdings, as otherwise the reforms might, while conferring benefits on one section of the society, cause undue hardship to another for no fault of its own. In accordance with this policy, the small landholders have been given reasonable protection under the Land Reforms Act (1963) keeping in view the interests of the tenants as well. While the tenants of big landholders are given the choice to pay fair rent or contract rent whichever is less, the tenants of small landholders do not enjoy this concession as it is considered that a small benefit

should accrue to the small landholder who also is entitled to a reasonable treatment. Again in areas where the tenants enjoyed security of tenure under any law in force prior to January 21, 1961, while the cultivating tenants of big landholders can purchase the landhold's rights, the cultivating tenants of small landholders can do so only after allowing the small landholder to resume a portion of the land if he so chooses. These are two essential benefits conferred on the small landholders.

The Act finally lays down that no family or adult unmarried person shall own or hold more than 12 "standard acres" subject to a maximum of 36 acres in extent. This area is termed as the 'ceiling area'. A family is to consist of the husband, wife and the unmarried minor children or such of them as exist. Transfers effected after December 18, 1957 except as noted below are to be disregarded when calculating the 'ceiling area' of the transferor. The exception referred to is in regard to transfers effected before the 15th September 1963 in the following ways.

- (1) by way of partition or
- (2) on account of natural love and affection
- (3) in favour of a person who was a tenant of the holding before the 18th December, 1957 and continued to be so till the date of transfer, or
- (4) in favour of a religious, charitable or educational institution of a public nature solely for the purpose of the institution.

Transfers by person owning or holding land in excess of the ceiling area after September 15, 1963 are declared null and void.

The five Year Plans contemplate that certain special categories of lands should be exempted from ceiling provisions. Accordingly the following are some of the important categories of lands which are exempted from the ceiling provisions under the Kerala Land Reforms Act 1963.

- (1) Plantations of coffee, tea, rubber, cocoa, cardamom and cinamon,
- (2) Pure pepper and pure arecanut gardens as on April 1, 1964 which are 5 acres or more in contiguous extent,
- (3) Private forests,
- (4) Lands comprised in mills, factories, or workshops and which are necessary for the use of such mills, factories or workshops,
- (5) Commercial sites, and

(6) Lands owned or held by a religious, charitable or educational institutions of a public nature or a public trust etc.

As it is almost impossible to determine separately the income from each field and effect a comparison a more practicable and at the same time a reasonable approach has been adopted on the basis of the "standard acre". The 'standard acre' has been defined as an extent of land that would yield a net income of Rs.450 per annum. Based on the figures of average yield, collected by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics of the State for various crops in the various Districts and Taluks, the extent of land cultivated with different crops which would yield this net income has been calculated and a schedule of equivalents drawn up. The schedule for Alleppey District is given below.

Class of Land	One Standard Acre
1 Garden	1.00 acre
2 Dry land principally cultivated with cashew	2.00 "
3 Other dry land	4.00 "
4 Palliyal land	4.00 "
5 Rubber plantation	1.75 "
6 Tea plantation	0.75 "
7 Coffee plantation	1.00 "
8 Cardamom plantation	1.50 "
9 Cinnamon plantation	1.50 "
10 Cocoa plantation	1.50 "

Taluks	Standard Acres of Nilam	
	Double crop nilam (acre)	Single crop nilam (acre)
1 Karthikapalli } 2 Mavelikara }	1.25	2.00
3 Chengannur } 4 Tiruvalla }	1.50	2.00
5 Kattanad } 6 Ambalapuzha } 7 Shertallai }	2.00	3.00

STAMPS

The revenue realised by way of sale of stamps is one of the major items of revenue to the State. The sale is effected through the Government Treasuries. There are 8 Treasuries in Alleppey District including the District Treasury, Alleppey. All the Treasuries in this District are stocking stamps. All these Sub-Treasuries stock stamps of the following kinds:- (1) General Stamps which include 5 np. stamp and other nonjudicial stamps, (2) Court Fee Stamps and (3) Service Postage Stamps.

The Sub Treasuries get General Stamps and Court Fee Stamps direct from the General Stamp Depot, Trivandrum on submitting indents for the same according to their requirements. The Service Postage Stamps are obtained from the Controiler of Stamps, Central Stamp Store, Nasik Road, Central Railway. The Sub Treasury, Tiruvalla which works as a Sub-Depot in the case of Service Postage Stamps stocks the Service Postage Stamps and supplies them to the Sub-Treasuries on their request. Court Fee Stamps and General Stamps are issued to Vendors from the Sub-Treasuries for sale upto the value of Rs. 50 in the case of Court Fee Stamps and upto Rs. 400 in the case of General Stamps on discount basis. This discount is allowed at the rates sanctioned by Government¹. This is granted to Vendors not in cash but in Stamps. The Service Postage Stamps are issued from the Sub Treasuries to the Government Offices on presentation of Contingent bills for service postage stamps and the value thereof is realised by transfer-credit from the revenue of the concerned Departments.

Statement of Stamps Issued from the Treasuries of the District
1959-60 to 1963-64

	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Foreign Bill	6,847.50	8,267.00	6,568.50	4,548.00	3,705.00
Hundi	657.00	523.98	801.50	373.00	412.50
Revenue					
Stamps					
(5 np. & 10 np.)	33,129.30	38,481.75	60,314.25	49,087.00	56,401.00
Share Transfer	14,372.50	17,892.50	15,560.00	13,550.00	14,100.00
Insurance	195.94	150.00	25.00	70.00	...
Election	920.62	50.38	1,112.00	389.50	2,782.75

¹ Government Order G1—58285/60/M.D. dated 9-12-1960.

General &

Special	7.72.292.12	10,89,650.00	12,05,128.37	14,71,392.75	22,09,548.85
Court Fee	2,85,418.00	3,03,632.02	3,62,766.13	4,15,397.87	5,86,573.70
Court Copies	1,90,854.44	2,22,939.15	1,92,031.74	2,60,740.37	2,37,274.66
Service Postage					
Stamp	3,44,051.30	2,97,476.61	4,60,122.95	5,16,724.69	5,15,930.45
Central Excise					
Stamp	16,432.00	10,820.00	20,115.00	8,928.75	5,983.75

EXCISE DEPARTMENT,

The Alleppey Excise Division which is co-terminous with the Alleppey Revenue District is under the control of an Assistant Excise Commissioner. The Division is divided into 10 Ranges. Each Range is under the control of an Excise Inspector. Besides the above 10 Ranges there are two Distilleries, viz., the Pamba Distillery, Tiruvalla and the McDowell Distillery at Varanad Shertallai. The sanctioned strength of the staff in the Ranges and institutions is furnished below.

Range	Excise Inspector	Guards			Boatman
		P.Os	I. Grade	II. Grade	
1 Arukatti	1 (I Gr.)	4	4	8	1
2 Shertallai		4	4	8	...
3 Alleppey	1 (I Gr.)	4	4	8	...
4 Kuttanad	1 (I Gr.)	4	5	0	4
5 Karthikapally	1	4	4	8	...
6 Kayamkulam	1	4	4	8	...
7 Mavelikara	1	4	6	12	...
8 Chengannur	1	4	4	8	...
9 Tiruvalla	1	4	5	10	...
10 Eraviperur	1 (I Gr.)	4	4	8	...
11 Pamba Distillery	1	2	2	5	...
12 McDowell Distillery	(one) 2 I Gr.)	2	1	4	

The major items of work attended to by the Range Inspectors are collection of Excise Revenue under the different items i.e., Kist, tree-tax, duty on foreign liquor, gallonage fee, vending fee etc. and suppression of malpractices by registering cases against those who violate Abkari law.

The Ranges of Alleppey, Kuttanad, Mavelikara and Chengannur are co-terminous with the Taluks concerned. The jurisdictions of the other Ranges are furnished below.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Arukutti Range
(Shertallai Taluk) | Mattathibhagam, Panavally, Turavur North and south and Arur Villages of the Shertallai Taluk. |
| 2 | Shertallai Range
(Shertallai Taluk) | Pallippuram, Tannirmukkam North and South, Kokkothamangalam, Shertallai North and South, Vayalar East and West Tykattusseri, Kanjikuzhi, Mararikulam, North Villages of Shertallai taluk. |
| 3 | Karthikapally
(Karthikapally Taluk) | Pallippad, Viyapuram, Cherutana, Hari-pad, Karthikapally, Kumarapuram, Karuvatta, Trikkunnapuzha, Chingoli, Arattupuzha and Cheppad Villages of the Karthikapally Taluk. |
| 4 | Kayamkulam
(Karthikapally Taluk) | Peringala, Patiyur, Kirikad, Kandallur, Mutukulam, Kayamkulam and Putuppally Villages of the Karthikapally Taluk. |
| 5 | Tiruvalla
(Tiruvalla Taluk) | Kizhakkumbhagam, Kadapra, Nedumpram Perinagara, Kavumbhagam and Tiruvalla Villages of the Tiruvalla Taluk. |
| 6 | Eraviperur
(Tiruvalla Taluk) | Eraviperur, Kaviyur, Kallupara, Pura-mattam, Kallappally, Anikad, Kottangal, Ezhumattur, koipram, Aiyurur, Tottap-puzhasseri, Perumpetty Villages of the Tiruvalla Taluk. |

As regards the Distilleries, the excise Inspector is in charge of the Distillery. Arrack is distilled in the Pamba Distillery by using molasses and it is being supplied to the wet area of the erstwhile Travancore State. This arrack is stored in the Departmental warehouses at each Taluk headquarters and supplied to the arrack vendors after realising the duty, cost price etc. Besides spirits of different kinds and various kinds of foreign liquors etc., are also being manufactured in the Distillery. In the McDowell Distillery also different kinds of Liquors are manufactured and supplied to various parties. All these manufactures are done under the direct supervision of the excise staff. Two Excise Inspectors (one I Grade and the other II Grade) have been posted to this Distillery in order to exercise effective control.

AMMERS POLICY

The Alleppey Excise Division is purely a wet area. In 1964-65 there were 254 toddy shops, 47 arrack shops and 5 foreign Liquor

Retail shops in this Division. All these shops are being sold in auction year after year and the rentals are collected and credited to the Government. The range-wise list showing the number of shops is furnished below.

Range	R.S.	A.S.	F.L.R.	Total
Total:	254	47	5	306
Arukutti	24	4	...	28
Shertallai	45	5	1	51
Alleppey	40	8	1	49
Kuttanad	36	2	...	38
Karthikapally	17	3	...	20
Kayamkulam	16	2	...	19
Mavelikara	24	10	1	34
Chengannur	25	6	1	32
Tiruvalla	15	3	1	19
Eraviperur	12	4	...	16

Besides there are fixed fee licenses and free licenses such as Foreign Liquor wholesale license, Club license, DS II license, DS III license, Rectified spirit license, M.D. licenses, L1, L2, L3 licenses etc.

The Abkari policy of the Government aims at minimum consumption and maximum revenue. Exhibition of posters and other kinds of symbols and advertisements before the liquor shops and premises has been controlled by the Department. Vigilant patrol work is being arranged by the Range staff in the suspected areas in order to stop malpractices.

The major source of income of the Excise Department are: (1) Rentals fetched due to the auction sale of Abkari shops. (2) Collection of tree tax on the trees tapped by the toddy shop contractors. (3) Duty on arrack, Cocobrandy, Foreign Liquor etc. and (4) Gallonage fee on Foreign Liquor and vending fee on spirit.

Poor people consume country liquor (toddy, arrack) and foreign Liquor is being used by rich men. Arrack is manufactured in the Pamba Distillery, Tiruvalla and is being supplied to the arrack shops of the erstwhile Travancore area through ware houses established at the Range Headquarters. Besides different varieties of Foreign Liquor such as Brandy, Whisky, Rum, Gin etc., are also manufactured at the Pamba Distillery, Tiruvalla and McDowell Distillery, Shertallai. A huge amount is being realised as duty on these liquors.

From April 1, 1959 onwards, the privilege of vending Opium and Ganja in independent shops was stopped and Government decided to introduce the permit system for those who are addicted to Opium. Accordingly Opium permits were issued to Opium addicts who have registered their names before April 1, 1959 and on production of the medical certificate from a Medical Officer. But in exceptional cases fresh permits are issued on the recommendation of the Medical Board.

The revenue of this Division for the period 1957-58 to 1963-64 is furnished below.

Year	Revenue Rental Rs.
1957-58	26,28,615.46
1958-59	26,77,035.15
1959-60	27,06,290.90
1960 61	30,77,837.55
1961-62	34,56,648.99
1962-63	42,09,162.06
1963 64	46,66,797.65

During the year 1964-65 the rental of Abkari shops in this District had reached Rs. 51,75,700. It is worth mentioning that Alleppey District recorded the maximum increase in rentals i. e., 30.36% in 1964-65 while the State average was 21.05 only.

SALES TAX AND AGRICULTURAL INCOME TAX

The Travancore General Sales Tax Act-1124 (1949) Act XVIII of 1124-was enforced in Travancore State with effect from May 13, 1949 in order to make good the financial loss due to the introduction of Prohibition: In the early stages this scheme of taxation was laid down in the Act on a multipoint basis. As per the provision of this Act Sales Tax was realised only from dealers whose annual turn-over was not less than Rs. 10,000. The general administration of the Sales Tax was carried on by the Excise Inspectors and Assistant Excise Commissioners. But full-time Municipal Sales Tax Officers were appointed for Trivandrum city as well as for other Municipal towns. They were also working under the control of the Excise Commissioners. After the integration of Cochin State with Travancore and the Federal financial integration, the Travancore General Sales Tax Act ceased to exist and the Travancore Cochin G. S. T. 1125 (Act XI of 1125) came into force on May 30, 1950. But following the integration of Malabar with Travancore-Cochin State

with effect from November 1, 1956 the G. S. T. Act 1125 (Act XI of 1125) was extended to Malabar area also. From April 1, 1963 onwards a unified Act known as the K. G. S. T. Act was passed and this Act is now in force in Kerala State.

Agricultural Income Tax was introduced for the first time in Travancore State by the Travancore Income Tax Act of 1121 in order to make good the loss of revenue sustained by Government on account of the introduction of Basic Tax in that year. But in April 1951 the Travancore Cochin Agricultural Income Tax Act came into force. This was administered by the Agricultural Income Tax and Sales tax Department. This Act is now in force in Kerala State, as per this Act, any person whose net agricultural income in a year exceeds Rs. 3,600 is liable to be assessed to Agricultural Income Tax. From 1961-62 onwards this branch was separated from the Control of inspecting Assistant Commissioners of the District concerned to the immediate control of two Special Inspecting Assistant Commissioners with their Headquarters at Kottayam and Kozhikode. The Special Inspecting assistant commissioners are now exercising the powers of assessing authorities in respect of higher income cases.

The Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural Income Tax and Sales Tax is the head of the Department in Alleppey District, his immediate superior being the Deputy Commissioner of Agricultural Income Tax and Sales Tax, Quilon. Under the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner Alleppey, there are 8 Sales Tax Offices and a Sales Tax Check Post working with their offices as shown below:-

- 1 Sales Tax Office, Special Circle, Alleppey
- 2 -do- 1st -do-
- 3 -do- 2nd -do-
- 4 -do- Shertallai
- 5 -do- Kayamkulam
- 6 -do- Mavelikara
- 7 -do- Tiruvalla
- 8 -do- Chengannur
- 9 Sales Tax Check Post, Arur (Internal)

The Sales Tax Office, Chengannur was started only on April 1, 1963. Prior to that date the assessment files relating to the Sales Tax Office Chengannur, were dealt with by the Sales Tax Officer

The Sales Tax Officers of the I and II Circles, Alleppey, Tiruvalla, Shertallai and Mavelikara are assisted by Assistant Officers—one each in the Ist and IInd Circles, Alleppey and Tiruvalla and two each in Shertallai and Mavelikara. Apart from this there are also 7 Sales Tax Inspectors, working under the supervision of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner, Alleppey in different offices. They are mainly intended for gathering statistics of the dealers and for conducting shop inspection and checking of vehicles throughout this District.

In addition, there is a Sales Tax Check Post at Arur on the northern border of the District. In the Check Post there are two Inspectors and four Sub Inspectors working in turns. Their main object is to check vehicles and detect evasion of tax and violations as contemplated in the K. G. S. T. Act 1963.

The Sales Tax Officers exercise powers of assessment of dealers whose annual net turn-over exceeds Rs. 20,000. They are also expected to inspect the business places of the dealers within their jurisdiction. The Assistant Sales Tax Officers are also assessing authorities where the dealers net turn-over does not exceed Rs. 20,000 per year. They are also empowered to inspect the business premises of the dealers within the jurisdiction. The Sales Tax Inspectors also exercise similar functions for helping the Sales Tax Officers and Assistant Sales Tax Officers.

The statement showing the collection and expenditure under General Sales Tax for the year 1957-58 to 1963-64 is given below:-

Year	Collection		Expenditure
	General Sales	Central Sales	
	Tax Rs.	Tax Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	50,38,237.89	2,17,024.11	1,43,709.77
1958-59	52,22,030.77	5,93,565.61	1,72,568.63
1959-60	56,28,470.91	6,12,254.12	1,92,661.58
1960-61	67,23,390.18	5,21,068.23	1,76,309.92
1961-62	69,92,595.57	6,89,774.86	1,94,370.11
1962-63	95,52,645.44	7,24,969.14	2,15,550.11
1963-64	1,06,58,388.02	13,45,208.13	2,31,636.90

The figures of collection and expenditure under Agricultural Income Tax for the years 1957-58 to 1963-64 respect of Alleppey District are furnished below:-

Year	Collection Rs.	Expenditure Rs.
1957-58	2,28,359.77	22,500.11
1958-59	4,52,270.23	31,580.66
1959-60	5,97,907.23	29,899.40
1960-61	6,61,362.54	29,037.01
1961-62	6,33,744.16	29,800.20
1962-63	8,63,014.15	34,552.74
1963-64	8,33,952.08	41,482.59

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

The office of the District Registrar, Alleppey started functioning only on June 1, 1962. Prior to that date the Registry Offices in the District were under the administrative control of the District Registrar, Quilon. The Office of the District Registrar, Alleppey, was formed to ensure effective supervision of the work done by the Sub-Registrar and the Chitty Auditor in this District. Every Sub-Registry Office is being inspected by the Registrar twice a year. Besides attending to the routine work of inspection and supervision of the Sub-Offices the District Registrar functions also as the Registrar under the Special Marriages Act, the Registrar under the Kshatriya Marriages Act and the Registrar under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act. The Registrar also acts as Collector under Sections 16, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42, of the Kerala Stamp Act.

There is a Chitti Auditor under the administrative control of the Registrar who performs the audit of accounts of all *chitties* registered in the Sub-Offices under the District.

Besides the duties and functions which devolve on them under the provision of the Registration Act, the Sub-Registrars function as Registrars under the Special Marriage Act. They are also *Ex-officio* Chitti Registrars under the Travancore Chitties Act of 1120 (1944-45). There are 19 Sub-Registry Offices in the Alleppey District besides the Office of the Chitti Auditor functioning in the Office of the Registrar. They are located at the following places:- (1) Alleppey, (2) Ambalapuzha, (3) Arukutti, (4) Shertallai, (5) Mararikulam, (6) Pulinkunnu, (7) Haripad, (8) Kayamkulam, (9) Kirsad, (10) Bharanikavu, (11) Nuranad, (12) Mavellkara, (13) Pantalim, (14) Aranmula, (15) Chengannur, (16) Tiruvalla, (17) Vennikulam, (18) Minnir and (19) Choppid.

A detailed statement of the Sub-Registry Offices in the District with such particulars as the date of their establishment and the statistics of their work, receipts and expenditure for the year 1963-64 and 1964-65 is given at Appendix. I

CENTRAL EXCISE

The Central Excise Administration in the Alleppey District is vested in the Superintendent of Central Excise, Alleppey Circle, with headquarters at Alleppey. The jurisdiction of the Circle extends over the Alleppey District and Punalur Range in the Quilon District. The various formations in this Circle are Alleppey MOR; Kayamkulam MOR; Punalur Range (Quilon District), Shertalla, Range, South Indian Rubber Works and Mannom Sugar Mills; Pantalam, with two Preventive and Intelligence Units at Alleppey and Kayamkulam. Besides, there are two Customs Outposts, Alleppey and Koilthottam.

The main excisable commodities dealt with in this Circle are Tobacco, Coffee, VNE Oils, Paints and Varnishes, Wireless Receiving sets, Electric wires and cables, Matches, Plywood, Paper, Jute manufactures and Footwear.

The revenue under Central Excise realised in this District during 1963-64 was Rs. 65, 18 864.62. The expenditure incurred in this on the Central Excise administration was about Rs. 2,61,000

INCOME TAX

The Revenue administration of the Income Tax Circle, Alleppey, is being carried on by two Income-Tax Officers. Each of them is assisted by a staff which consists of 2 Inspectors 1 Head Clerk, 5 U.D. Clerks, 2 Steno Typists, 4 L.D. Clerks, 3 Notice Servers and 5 Class IV Government Servants. The territorial jurisdictions of the Income Tax Officers are as follows:-

The Main Income Tax Officer's jurisdiction is restricted to the Taluks of Shertallai, Karthikapally and Ambalapuzha (excluding the portion of Alleppey Municipal Town included within the jurisdiction of the Additional Income Tax Officer.

The Additional Income Tax Officer exercises his jurisdiction over persons within the Taluks of Kuttanad and Mavelikara in the Alleppey District and Karunagapally in the Quilon District and the portion of the Alleppey Municipal town within the following boundaries.

North: By Vada Canal, East; by Pallathuruthy river,
 South: By Commercial Canal, West; by the Road connecting
 Kothuvalchavady Bridge and Vazhicherry Bridge.

The jurisdiction is not rigid as it is subject to refxation from time to time to suit the administrative convenience.

The Taluks of Tiruvalla and Chengannur come under the jurisdiction of the Kottayam Income Tax Circle.

The details regarding assessments and collection of Income Tax Wealth Tax, Gift Tax and Expenditure Tax in the Alleppey Circle are furnished below:-

Year	Number of assessee		Total
	Main I. T. O.	Addl. I. T. O.	
1959-60	1,067	717	1,784
1960-61	1,174	1,323	2,497
1961-62	1,065	1,320	2,385
1962-63	1,770	1,464	3,234
1963-64	1,641	1,042	2,683

Year-wise collection				
Year	I.T.	W.T.	G.T.	E.T.
1959-60	23,70,597	74,351	86,337	...
1960-61	30,58,465	25,099	69,911	...
1961-62	51,00,000	58,860	34,523	...
1962-63	48,35,626	69,608	49,073	...
1963-64	53,88,763	47,194	24,794	265

APPENDIX SUB-REGISTRY OFFICES - ALLEPPEY DISTRICT

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Date of establishment	No. of documents registered 1963-64	Receipts 1963-64	Expenditure 1963-64	No. of encumbrances issued 1963-64	No. of Wills registered 1963-64
1	Sub-Registry Office, Alleppey	1-5-1043 K. E.	3,221	3,033	50,082.84	20,701.32	375
2	Arukutti	1-8-1083 K. E.	6,708	5,323	42,224.01	39,184.24	314
3	Ambalapuzha	1083 K. E.	2,422	2,777	21,392.37	26,589.59	376
4	Aranmula	1075 K. E.	4,154	4,415	38,226.39	41,335.64	460
5	Bharanikavu	1-6-1962 A. D.	3,736	4,015	14,910.12	18,369.59	232
6	Cheppad	1-6-1962 A. D.	4,774	4,639	24,783.97	27,632.92	31
7	Chengannur	2-5-1043 K. E.	3,948	3,599	34,089.55	32,397.96	42
8	Haripad	1-5-1043 K. E.	5,060	5,133	32,924.47	39,059.88	151
9	Kirikad	1-6-1962 A. D.	3,723	3,869	18,407.26	20,839.73	239
10	Kayamkulam	2-10-1071 K. E.	4,619	4,702	26,369.76	26,840.93	240
11	Mararikulam	1-11-1088 K. E.	4,146	3,986	24,505.56	27,778.63	56
12	Mannar	1-8-1083 K. E.	3,433	3,604	23,865.90	29,707.19	144
13	Mavelikara	1043 K. E.	4,958	5,440	29,857.26	36,620.08	133
14	Pantalam	1-2-1116 K. E.	5,224	4,833	71,603.39	31,245.17	108
15	Pulinkunnu	24-10-1124 K. E.	2,172	2,356	23,807.24	24,420.35	108
16	Nuranad	1-1-1078 K. E.	4,92	5,574	16,516.08	22,988.29	124
17	Tiruvalla	1-8-1043 K. E.	4,131	3,583	39,496.47	41,166.68	133
18	Vennikulam	1-8-1092 K. E.	3,029	3,455	24,444.86	30,680.53	141
19	Sbertallai	2-5-1043 K. E.	6,486	6,451	43,894.80	52,001.54	162
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CHAPTER XII

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN THE DISTRICT

Murder, house breaking, ordinary theft, cattle theft and rioting constitute the most important crimes reported from the District. The figures relating to these crimes for the period from 1958 to 1966 can be had from the Table I given below:-

TABLE I

Crimes	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Murder	33	29	22	21	13	1	11	16	19
Dacoity	3	1	1	1	...	...	2	...	1
Robbery	21	6	16	5	6	7	1	2	1
House breaking	264	223	191	175	150	172	150	162	150
Theft ordinary	231	177	207	183	150	181	113	167	245
Cattle theft	9	9	12	8	3	5	9	8	6
Rioting	161	233	115	94	95	66	89	74	108

It may be noted that crimes like house breaking, ordinary theft and cattle theft registered during the period show a general tendency to decrease. There was no organised violence in the District during the years from 1958 to 1966.

Cases under the Gambling Act and the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act are reported. Table II shows the number of such cases reported during the years 1958 to 1966.

TABLE II

Year	Cases under the S. I. T. in Women and Girls Act.	Cases under Gam- bling Act.
1958	...	...
1959	...	...
1960	...	...
1961	...	32
1962	...	388
1963	2	489
1964	2	81
1965	...	95
1966	10	39

Cases of suicide are also reported frequently. Usually suicides are committed by hanging oneself, by drowning or by poisoning. Table I given at Appendix I gives the number of cases of suicides reported during the years 1958 to 1963.

The following statement shows the value of property stolen and recovered in the District during 1958 to 1966.

Statement of Property stolen and recovered (1958-66)

Year	Property lost Rs.	Recovered Rs.	Percentage
1958	70,142.76	15,357.40	22
1959	35,922.24	11,344.05	31.5
1960	85,853.36	21,819.63	25.4
1961	96,158.80	41,033.40	42.7
1962	55,717.02	19,939.32	35.7
1963	64,063.96	14,106.88	22.02
1964	2,35,213.54	27,924.11	12
1965	2,66,470.38	41,075.08	15
1966	2,80,498.82	39,655.34	14

EVOLUTION OF THE POLICE FORCE

Prior to the beginning of the 18th century the maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of certain feudal chieftains called 'Pramanis' or 'Madambis' who used to enforce the law, dispense justice and collect the revenue. Under each *Praman* there was a body of trained, paid and skilled men consisting of *Valla Sarvadhikaryakar*, *Sarvadhikaryaktars*, *Karyakars*, *Purvathyakars* and peons. These men were given some military training in the *Kalaris* (gymnasiums) along with some knowledge of 'Chattavariyolas', which were the ordinances embodying the law and procedure prevailing in the land. However, this system of maintaining law and order ceased to exist when the office of the Dewan- the head of the administrative system- was established. *Tanas*, having a close resemblance to the present day Police Stations, were created and these *Tanas* were to be manned by *Tana Naiks*, *Mudaltars* and *Tanadars*.

It was during the days of Dewan Ummini Thampi (1809-11) that an organised police force of 200 men was raised in Travancore. Col. Munro, who succeeded Ummini Thampi as Dewan in 1811 introduced several reforms in this force by raising its strength from 200 to 500 men. Even then the police remained an undisciplined and untrained force, not properly supervised or remunerated. Due to

these reasons the personnel and morale of the Police force were unsatisfactory.

In 1834 for the first time in the history of Travancore a law regarding the police was passed. This was followed by the enactment of a second Police Regulation in 1847-48. In 1854-55 in the wake of the formation of the Revenue Divisions a re-organisation of the police administration was also effected. The Dewan Peishkar, the Officer-in-Charge of the Revenue Division, was empowered to supervise and control the functions of the police. The Tahsildars were also empowered to control and supervise the police within their respective Taluks. Each Tahsildar had under him a chain of police officers such as *Kottawal*, *Aminatar Vicharipbu*, *Police Naik*, *Jaamadar Havildar*, *Duffadar*, *Naykams*, *Mutalpels* and *peons*. In addition to these officers there were the "Extra Police Officers" who exercised jurisdiction over two or three Taluks and they were assisted by a staff of *Naiks*, *Mutalpels* and *Peons*. These Extra Police Officers were the crime police who were expected to go to the spot of the grave-crime and conduct investigations.

In 1881 Dewan Remiengar submitted a report to the Government recommending several changes in the organisation of the police and on the basis of this report a new police Regulation was enacted. Accordingly the entire police force in Travancore was re-organised with one Superintendent, 3 Assistant Superintendents, 46 Inspectors, 172 Head Constables, and 1,523 constables. Special qualifications were prescribed for the candidates who were recruited to the Police. A Police Training School was established with a view to training the new recruits. In order to meet emergencies a small Armed Reserve Force consisting of 147 men was also organised.

In 1919 the entire Police in Travancore was brought under the control of a new Officer designated the Commissioner of Police. The District Superintendent of Police was made the head of the police at the divisional level and the Assistant Superintendents at the Sub divisional level. In 1938 the designation of the Commissioner of Police was changed to the Inspector-General of Police. In the same year the posts of Deputy Inspector-General and an Assistant Inspector-General were newly created. Following this, several important changes took place in the Travancore Police Force. The new reforms introduced include the formation of an Intelligence Bureau, the separation of the State General Reserve from the District Reserve Units, formation of the Vehicle Taxation Branch, setting up of the

Wireless and Motor Transport Units, the formation of the Women Police Wing etc.

In 1949, as a result of the integration of Travancore and Cochin the Police forces in these two States were combined and placed under one Inspector-General of Police. In order to achieve uniformity in ranks, the Station House Officers in Travancore area were also designated as Sub Inspectors. The Traffic and Taxation Branch and the Armed Reserve were separated and each unit was placed under a separate Superintendent of Police. The Palace Guard Unit was merged with the Police Department. It was also provided that all the superior cadres of the Police Force were to be held by the officers belonging to the Indian Police Service.

ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE FORCE

LOCAL POLICE

The functions of the local Police include the prevention and detection of crimes, maintenance of law and order, escorting and guarding of prisoners, guarding of treasuries etc. They have also to perform many other duties connected with the maintenance of law and order, service of summons, execution of warrants, guarding of public or private property of which they may be placed in charge and the prosecution of criminals before Magistrate Courts.

The Superintendent of Police, Alleppey, is the head of the Police Department at the district level. He is directly responsible to the Dy. Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, with headquarters at Trivandrum. In matters of administration, the Superintendent of Police is assisted by a Personal Assistant in the rank of a Dy. Superintendent of Police. The District is divided into two Sub-divisions, viz., Alleppey and Chengannur. Each Sub-division is placed under the control of a Dy. Superintendent of Police/Asst. Superintendent of Police, as the case may be. Each Sub-division is divided into two circles which in their turn are subdivided into Police Stations. The Circles are under the control of the Circle Inspectors and the police Stations are in charge of Sub Inspectors. There are Outposts within the jurisdiction of certain Police Stations for effective policing in rural areas. Each Outpost is under a Head Constable or Police Constable. There are 2 Sub-divisions, 4 Circles, 18 Police Stations and 18 Outposts in this District. The list of Sub-divisions, Circles Stations and Outposts is furnished in Appendix II at the end of this Chapter. The local Police consists

of 2 Deputy Superintendents, 4 Circle Inspectors, 21 Sub-Inspectors, 129 Head Constables and 585 constables. This includes a Traffic Control Unit consisting of one Traffic Sub-Inspector, 5 Head Constables and 16 Police Constables.

There is a District Intelligence Bureau under the charge of a Sub-Inspector assisted by 3 Head Constables. There is also a Special Branch under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police consisting of a staff of one Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 12 Head Constables and 11 Constables.

The registration of cases is done at the Police Stations and investigation is usually conducted by the Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables. Cases of grave nature are personally investigated by the Circle Inspectors and Sub-divisional Officers. The record of investigation is scrutinised by the Superior Officers and timely instructions are given to the subordinates.

For conducting prosecution in cases charged by the Police there are 4 Assistant Public Prosecutors in this District, (1 A.P.P. Grade I and 3 A.P.P. Grade II). A.P.P. Grade I conducts prosecution cases before the District Magistrates Court, Alleppey and supervises the work of other A.P.P.s. A.P.P.s. Grade II conduct prosecution cases in the Sub-divisional Magistrates Court, Additional 1st Class Magistrate Court and Sub-Magistrate Courts.

In the Sessions Court, Alleppey and the Additional Sessions Court, Mavelikara the Government Pleaders conduct the prosecutions.

The District Armed Reserve in the Alleppey District consists of one Reserve Inspector, 3 Reserve Sub-Inspectors, 6 Jamadars, 20 Head Constables and 320 Constables including Naiks, L/NKs, and technical staff designated as P.Cs.

The Table below gives briefly the particulars of strength of Police force under the control of the Superintendent of Police in May 1967.

Particulars of the strength of the Police Force in Alleppey District in May 1967.

	Dy.S.P./ A.S.P.	Circle Inspectors	S.I.s	H.Cs./ Jamadars	P.Cs.
Total	3	6	27	170	906
I Local Police	2	4	21	129	585
II District Intelligence Bureau	...	...	1	3	...

III Special					
Branch	...	1	2	12	1
IV P.A. attached					
to Office	1	..	...	...	...
V District A.R					
...	1		3	26	320

The total sanctioned strength of the Police in the District is as follows:—S- P. 1, Dy. S. P. / A- S, P. 3. C. Is. 6, S, Is, 24, H, C-/ Jamadars 130 and P. Cs. 924.

RAILWAY POLICE

The Quilon-Ernakulam railway line passes through this District. The railway jurisdiction from Kayamkulam to Tiruvalla is under the control of the Superintendent of Police, Trivandrum, Rural and Railways. Prevention and detection of crimes in trains and along the railway lines and premises are the normal duties of the Railway Police.

HOME GUARDS

A unit of the Home Guards was set up in this District in December 1960 under the provisions of the Kerala Home Guards Act 1950. The Home Guards is under the administrative control of the Commandant General, Home Guards, Trivandrum.

There is a District Commandant who is in over-all charge of the District Home Guards. He is assisted by four staff officers. A statement of the sanctioned and existing strength of the Home Guards in Alleppey District as on June 30, 1965 is given below:—

	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength
VOLUNTEER OFFICERS		
District Commandants	1	1
S. Os.	4	4
C. Cs	5	4
SUB UNIT LEADERS		
Pln. Commanders	30	10
C. S, M.	5	2
C. Q. M.	5	1
Pln. Sgts.	30	13
Other Home Guards	540	410

There is a District Advisory Committee to assist the District Commandant in the selection of volunteers.

POLICE HOUSING SCHEME

Quarters for Policemen have been constructed at Alleppey and Ambalapuzha. At Alleppey, quarters have been provided for the A.R. personnel and H.Cs & P.Cs. of Alleppey North Police Station. At other centres construction work has not yet been taken up and completed.

POLICE CLUB

There is a Police Club at Alleppey set up in 1962. The Superintendent of Police is its Ex-officio President. Officers of and above the rank of Sub-Inspectors are members of this club. Members from the public are also enrolled.

POPULAR COMMITTEES

For the enforcement of the suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, Advisory Committees have been formed at Alleppey and Chengannur. There is also a Traffic Advisory Committee in this District for the enforcement and energising of Traffic Regulations. The Superintendent of Police, Alleppey is the Secretary of the Committee. He is also a member of the committee of the Rescue Shelter, Abala Mandir and Home for the Handicapped in addition to being the member of the Regional transport Authority for the Alleppey District.

FIRE SERVICE

The Fire Service Unit in the State was separated from the Police Department when the Kerala Fire Force Act 1962 came into effect from January 22, 1963. The Director of Fire Force with headquarters at Trivandrum is the head of the Department. The Unit is divided into two Regions, the Northern Region with headquarters at Calicut and the Southern Region with headquarters at Ernakulam. The Regional Fire Officer is in charge of each Fire Service Region. The Alleppey District comes under the Southern Region. A Fire station is located in Alleppey town in this District. It has four Pumping Units (two Basic, one Reserve and one Ambulance) attached to it. The staff consists of one Sub-Officer, six Leading Firemen, one Driver Mechanic, nine Firemen Drivers, 29 Firemen and one Telephone Operator-cum - Clerk. Fires are classified into three categories - serious, medium and small according to the estimated value of the property damaged. Serious fires are those in which the estimated damage is Rs 50,000 and above, medium fires Rs. 10,000 and below Rs 50,000 and small fires Rs 10,000 and less. It may be noted that fires in which loss of human life is involved are treated as serious irrespective of the

value of the property damaged. The statistics relating to each class of fire in the District for the years 1961-64 and the approximate value of property lost are given below:-

Year	Statistics of Fire Class				Approximate value of property lost Rs.
	Serious	Medium	Small	Total	
1961	...	...	19	19	6,10,549
1962	...	...	22	22	15,01,255
1963	...	...	22	22	20,41,865
1964	1	...	16	17	14,16,535

JAILS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The *Administration Report for Travancore State* for 1862-63 records that there was a principal jail at Alleppey during the year. It functioned under the control of the Revenue Officer and medical assistance to the inmates was given by the Ayurvedic physicians. As there were no proper sanitary arrangements in the jail, the health of the inmates was far from satisfactory and there was heavy mortality. Later a medical subordinate was appointed for the jail. In 1873 the Alleppey Jail was placed under a jailor assisted by a Naik and peons and his work was supervised by the judges of the local court. The District Jail at Alleppey was abolished in 1908.

PRISON ORGANISATION

There are at present two jails under the prisons Department in Alleppey District. They are the A Class Sub-jail, Alleppey and the A Class Sub-jail, Mavelikara. Brief Accounts of these institutions are given below:-

A CLASS SUB JAIL, ALLEPPEY

The A Class Sub-jail, Alleppey is under the charge of a superintendent, who is assisted in his work by one Head Warder and six Warders. The sanctioned accommodation in the jail is 125 persons. Only remand prisoners pending trial or preliminary investigation before court, prisoners in custody en-route through one station to another and criminal prisoners sentenced to one month are generally confined in this Sub-jail. Malayalam newspapers and books are made available to the prisoners for reading. There is a board of visitors for the jail, with the Inspector-General of Police, Director of health Services, Sessions Judge, Senior Medical Officer, Probation Officer,

the Municipal Chairman, Local M. L. A. and local M.P. as members. Government have also nominated a Doctor, a Lawyer, one Woman Social Worker and a respectable person of the locality as non-official members of the Board.

A CLASS Sub-jail, Mavelikara

The A Class Sub-jail, Mavelikara, is under the charge of one Superintendent who is assisted in his work by a Head Warder and 5 Warders. The sanctioned accommodation of the jail is 64 prisoners. Only under trial prisoners and those convicted for short terms are accommodated in this jail. There are four Honorary Visitors viz., a Doctor, a Lawyer and two Social Workers.

PROBATION SYSTEM

The staff of the Probation Department in this District consisting of a District Probation Officer and a Peon is under the direct control of the Chief Probation Superintendent, Trivandrum. One lady Honorary Probation Officer is also working with jurisdiction extending over three Districts, viz., Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey. The Probation Department as a whole is under the control and supervision of the Inspector-General of Prisons. The District Probation Officer is in charge of the work of Probation and After care under the Probation of Offenders Act, the Children Act, the Borstal Schools' Act, and the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls' Act. He is also called upon by the Courts to submit preliminary enquiry reports in respect of offenders proposed to be dealt with under the Probation of Offenders Act. Besides Probation and Aftercare work he is also expected to conduct the discharge enquiries about the inmates of Balmudirs, Protective Homes etc., with a view to rehabilitating them after discharge from the institution. The supervision of the convicts released prematurely under the Advisory Board Scheme is also attended to by the District Probation Officer.

RESCUE SHELTER, ALLEPPEY

The Rescue Shelter, Alleppey was started in 1957-58 under the Social and Moral Hygiene and After-care Programmes of the Second Five Year Plan. It functions as a Protective Home under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls' Act for the detention of women and girls rescued from the verge of moral danger. The sanctioned accommodation of the Shelter is for 25 persons and the maintenance charge fixed is Rs. 25/- per head per

mensem. The care and nature of all children admitted to the Shelter are also attended to there itself upto the age of six years. The day-to-day administration of the Shelter is vested in a Managing Committee consisting of officials and non-officials constituted by the Government. Each Managing Committee has a non-official Chairman and Government official as Treasurer. The staff of the Shelter consists of a Superintendent, a Matron and a peon. The inmates are provided with facilities for vocational training in such crafts as spinning, cutting and tailoring, embroidery, basket making etc.

REMAND HOME, ALLEPPEY

There is a Remand Home in Alleppey District for the detention of Juveniles awaiting trial under the children's Act before the Juvenile Court constituted for the purpose, or in other courts empowered to do so. It has accommodation for 20 inmates at a time. The institution was started in 1963-64.

ABLAMANDIR, ALLEPPEY

The Abalamandir or Destitute Home, Alleppey started functioning in 1961-62 for the care, protection and rehabilitation of the destitute women and girls. It has facilities for accommodation of 25 inmates at a time. The day-to-day administration of the Ablamandir is carried on by the managing committee of the Rescue Shelter. The staff of the institution consists of a Superintendent, a Matron-cum Instructor and a Peon.

HOME FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, ALLEPPEY

A Home for the Physically Handicapped (men and women) is also functioning at Alleppey. It provides facilities for the accommodation of 25 men and women. Its management and general control are vested in the management committee of the Rescue Shelter. The per capita maintenance grant to the institution is Rs.25/- per mensem.

CHILDREN'S HOME, MAVELIKARA

A Home for the healthy children of the leper patients was started at Mavelikara on February 21, 1963 under the name "Children's Home." It is meant for the care and nature of healthy children of leper patients with a view to safeguarding them from the infectious disease. The home has facilities for 50 inmates of either sex under 14 years of age. Poor children other than those of lepers are also admitted to this institution. The per capita grant to the institution by the Government is Rs. 25/- per mensem. The staff

of the Home consists of a Superintendent-cum Matron, a Teacher, a Peon-cum Watcher, an Ayah, a Cook and a Sweeper. The management of the institution is under the hands of a committee of officials and non-officials constituted by the Government for the purpose, with the Municipal Chairman, Mavelikara, as Chairman.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In olden days there was no regular judicial system in the erstwhile Travancore State. The judiciary was not a separate organ and the administration of justice was conducted by the *Naduvuzhis* and *Desavuzhis* in conformity with *maryada* or custom. The executive officers were also authorised to exercise judicial functions. The *melvicharippukar* was the only divisional officer who exercised purely judicial functions.

During the time of Dewan Ummini Tampi (1809-11) a few courts known as the *Innauff Cutcherries* were established for the dispensation of justice. However, Col. Munro who succeeded Ummini Thamoi abolished these Courts and took the duty of the dispensation of justice in his own hands for some time. But as there were many difficulties in this system Col. Munro, in consultation with the pandits, drafted a set of rules called "*Chattavariyolas*" based on the *Dharma Sastras*, the regulations in vogue in the company and, above all, on the established usages in the country. These were promulgated with the sanction of the then ruling Rani Rani Gouri Lakshmi Bai—on 30th Chingam 987 K.E. (September 1811). Munro's scheme provided for the establishment of a Principal Court for the State and five subordinate courts—one of which was to be set up at Mavelikara in this District. Col. Munro also made an attempt to abolish the system of trial by ordeal. But the Rani was strongly against the proposed measure and she prevailed upon him to retain it. It was therefore decided that trial by ordeal might be resorted to with the express sanction of the Dewan. The new scheme devised by Col. Munro and approved by the Rani marked a turning point in the history of judicial administration. It also placed the judiciary on a much higher pedestal.

In 1811 the subordinate or Zilla Courts started functioning in Travancore under the orders of the Dewan who was the head of all the departments of public service. These Courts were to enquire into all cases, civil, criminal or police, which were brought before

them, and report to the Dewan, who passed orders on each case. In 1814 an Appellate Court, attached to the Dewan's Cutcherry, was formed in order to hear appeals on the decisions of the Zilla Courts. In 1817 Tahsildars were authorised to hear petty police cases. Munsiff's Courts were established in 1831 and they were invested with jurisdiction in petty police cases and in civil cases upto Rs. 100. A general scheme of judicial administration based on the system obtaining in the Madras Presidency was introduced by means of five Regulations in 1834. A code of Civil Procedure, based on the British Indian Act, was introduced in 1861. This was followed by the enactment of another Regulation in 1865 defining the status of Vakils, their discipline and their rights in relation to courts. Two Regulations were passed in the next year, the first empowering a single judge of the Zilla Court to try and determine civil and criminal cases, and the second raising the jurisdiction of the Munsiffs to hear and decide suits of the value not exceeding Rs. 200. A subsequent regulation invested the Commercial Agent, Alleppey, with full powers of a Magistrate. The Zilla Court at Alleppey had permanent judges and an additional judge.

In 1811 the whole judicial system was re-organised. The jurisdiction of Munsiffs was raised to Rs. 500, while they were invested with final small cause powers in personal suits upto the value of Rs. 20. In 1890 the small cause jurisdiction of the Munsiffs was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 and the final appellate jurisdiction of the Zilla Judges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. To prescribe the mode of valuing suits for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts and of assessing pleaders' fees for purpose of taxation of costs, a Regulation was passed in 1892. In 1901 the ordinary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 and steps taken to raise their small cause jurisdiction from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 in individual cases on the recommendation of the High Court. In 1917 a Village Panchayat Court was set up for the first time in Alleppey. With a view to giving non-official gentlemen a share in judicial administration a first class Bench Magistrate's Court was set up at Alleppey and a second class Bench Court, each in Kayamkulam and Thuvalla under the Criminal Procedure Amendment Regulation 1097 (1921-22). Several other reforms were introduced in the judicial system in succeeding years.

ORGANISATION OF CIVIL COURTS

The District Judge, Alleppey is the highest judicial authority in the District and he presides over the District Court. The District

Court is the principal court of original civil jurisdiction in the District and it is also a Court of appeal from all decrees and orders upto the value of Rs. 10,000 passed by the subordinate courts from which an appeal can be preferred. The District Judge exercises general control over all civil courts in the District and their establishments and inspects the proceedings of these courts.

The District Court, Alleppey has also attached to it an Additional District Judge sitting at Mavelikara. Subordinate to the District Court, are 2 Sub-Courts, 7 Munsiff's Courts and a Village Panchayat Court. The Sub Judge exercises both original and-appellate jurisdiction. He tries original cases the value of which is unlimited and appeal cases the value of which does not exceed Rs. 5,000. The Munsiff exercises only original cases the value of which does not exceed Rs. 5,000. The Village Panchayat Court constituted under the Travancore Village Panchayat Courts Act, I of 190 A.E. (1914-15) is empowered to try petty civil suits the value of which does not exceed Rs. 100. Section 73 of the said Act permits of revision being preferred before the District Court in civil suits.

The Courts subordinate to the District Court, Alleppey as it stood on 31-3 1964 are as follows:-

COURTS	STATIONS
1 Sub Court (two benches)	Alleppey
2 Sub Court (one bench)	Mavelikara
3 Munsiff's Court (two benches)	Alleppey
4 Munsiff's Court three benches)	Shertallai
5 Munsiff's Court (one bench)	Krishnapuram
6 Munsiff's Court (one bench)	Mavelikara
7 Munsiff's Court (one bench)	Chengannur
8 Munsiff's Court (one bench)	Tiruvalla
9 Village Panchayat Court	Alleppey
10 Village Panchayat Court	Kayamkulam
11 Village Panchayat Court	Mavelikara
12 Village Panchayat Court	Tiruvalla

The Village Panchayat Courts function also as Bench Magistrate's Courts.

STATISTICS OF CIVIL COURTS

In the various courts including the Village Panchayat Courts in the Alleppey District at the beginning of the financial year

1963-64, there were 3433 suits pending. During the year 4463 suits were instituted and 251 suits were received otherwise. Of these, 4788 were disposed of and the balance pending at the end of the year was 8359.

Of the 4463 suits instituted, 2992 were for money or movable property. 633 were for immovable property. 307 related to mortgages. 531 were for specific reliefs and other reliefs.

Of the suits instituted, 813 were of value not exceeding Rs. 100/-, 2821 were of value above Rs. 100/- but not exceeding Rs. 1000/-, 713 were of value above Rs. 1000/- but not exceeding Rs. 5000/- 67 were of value above Rs. 5000/- but not exceeding Rs. 10,000/- 41 were of value above Rs. 10,000/- and 8 of value which cannot be estimated in terms of money. The total value of suits instituted was Rs. 36,75,178.93.

Of the suits disposed of, 196 were disposed of without trial. 1501 exparte, 57 on admission of claims, 721 by compromise, 2290 after full trial, and 23 on reference to arbitration.

There were 1188 appeals (including miscellaneous Appeals) pending at the beginning of the financial year 1963-64. During the year 1027 appeals were instituted and 25 were received otherwise. 13 were transferred and 1134 were disposed of and the balance pending at the end of year was 1093.

Of the 1134 appeals disposed of, 123 were dismissed or not prosecuted. Of the others, the lower court decrees were confirmed in 600 appeals modified in 135, reversed in 148 and cases remanded for retrial in 128.

ORGANISATION OF CRIMINAL COURTS

The Civil District and the Sessions Division being coterminous with the corresponding Revenue District, the District Judge, Alleppey is also the Sessions Judge of the Division. The Sessions Court is the principal court of original criminal jurisdiction in the Sessions Division. It is presided over by the Sessions Judge. The Additional District Judge Mavelikara and the Sub judges function as Additional Sessions Judge and Assistant Sessions Judges respectively.

The Courts subordinate to the Sessions Courts, Alleppey as it stood on 31.3.1964 are as follows -

Courts	Stations
1 Assistant Sessions Court (two benches)	Alleppey
2 The Assistant Sessions Court	Mavelikara

3	District Magistrate's Court (Judl)	Alleppey
4	Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court	Chengannur
5	Addl. First Class Magistrate's Court	Shertallai
6	Sub Magistrate's Court	Alleppey
7	-do-	Ambalapuzha
8	-do-	Karthikapally
9	-do-	Kayamkulam
10	-do-	Mavelikara
11	-do-	Changannur
12	-do-	Tiruvalla
13	Bench Magistrate's Court	Alleppey
14	-do-	Kayamkulam
15	-do-	Mavelikara
16	-do-	Tiruvalla

The Bench Magistrate's Courts are also Village Panchayat Courts on the Civil Side.

The Sessions Judge tries criminal cases which are committed to his court by Judicial Magistrates after preliminary enquiry and hears appeals against the decisions of Judicial Magistrates. The Sessions Judge and Additional Sessions Judge can pass any sentence authorised by law, but any sentence of death passed by them is subject to confirmation by the High Court. The Assistant Sessions Judge can pass any sentence authorised by law except a sentence of death or of imprisonment for life or of imprisonment for a term exceeding ten years.

The separation of the judiciary from the executive is complete in this State so that, like every other District, Alleppey has also two categories of Magistrates—Executive and Judicial. The Executive Magistrates are the executive Officers of the Revenue Department in whom is vested the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. The District Collector, by virtue of the office he holds, retains some of the powers of a District Magistrate. He is an Additional District Magistrate. Similarly the Revenue Divisional Officers are ex-officio First Class Magistrates and they exercise magisterial powers and functions within their revenue jurisdictions. The category of Judicial Magistrates consists of 1) the District Magistrate, 2) Sub-divisional Magistrates, 3) First-Class Magistrates, 4) Sub-Magistrates and 5) Bench Magistrates.

Under the Criminal Procedure Code and various other statutes the functions of a Magistrate fall within three broad categories

viz, 1) Functions which are 'Police' in their nature, as for instance the handling of unlawful assemblies, 2) functions of an administrative character, as for instance, the issue of licenses for fire arms etc. and 3) functions which are essentially judicial, as for instance, the trial of criminal cases. The allocation of powers between the two categories of Magistrates proceeds upon the principle that matters which are purely police or administrative in their nature should be dealt with by the Executive Magistrates while those which are judicial in nature are strictly within the purview of the Judicial Magistrates. As Officers of the Revenue Department the Executive Magistrates are under the control of the Government through the Board of Revenue while the Judicial Magistrates are under the control of The High Court.

The District Magistrate is the principal magisterial officer of the District and as such he has general administrative superintendence and control over all Judicial Magistrates. He inspects once in every year all the Courts of the Sub-Divisional and First-Class Magistrates in the District and such of the Courts of Sub-Magistrates as he considers necessary. His primary responsibility is to see that there is no congestion of work in any Court and that the Magistrates dispose of the work in their Courts properly and promptly. In addition to general supervisory functions the District Magistrate has also a specified area assigned to him, the cases arising from which he normally disposes of himself. He hears appeals from second class cases arising within that area or within any other area not assigned to any other First-Class Magistrate. It is open to him to transfer to or from his file, particular cases, or class of cases, and appeals, but he is expected to dispose of cases of special difficulty and importance himself. The District and Sessions Judge inspects the Court of the District Magistrate annually as the nominee of the High Court. He may, if he thinks fit, also inspect the court of any other Judicial Magistrate in the District as such nominee, but he does not have general powers of superintendence over Magistrates in his own right.

The ordinary powers of the Magistrates of the several classes are detailed in Schedule III of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act V of 1898). They may be invested with such additional powers by the State Government as are detailed in Schedule IV of the Code. They are competent to pass the following sentences.

a) Sub-Divisional and First Class Magistrates

- 1 Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years including such solitary confinement as is authorised by law.
 - 2 Fine not exceeding Rs. 2,000/-
- b) Magistrates of the Second Class.

STATISTICS OF CRIMINAL COURTS

The number of offences reported to the Sessions Court, during the year 1963-64 was 22. The number of persons under trial (including those pending from the previous year) was 37. The cases of 31 persons, were disposed of during the year. Of these 11 persons were acquitted or discharged and 20 were convicted.

The cases of 2 persons were referred to the High Court for confirmation of death sentences passed on them. The sentences passed by the courts of Sessions were as follows:

Number of persons who were sentenced to death.	2
Number of persons sentenced to life imprisonment.	2
Number of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.	13
Number of persons sentenced to simple imprisonment.	3

The total number of offences reported during the year 1963-64 in the various Magistrate's Courts of the District was 10859. The number of persons under trial, including those pending from the previous year was 16464. The cases of 15019 persons were disposed of during the year and 1445 persons were awaiting trial at the end of the year. Of the cases of 15019 persons disposed of 6803 persons were acquitted or discharged, 7579 persons were convicted, cases of 802 persons were otherwise disposed of and 35 were committed to the Sessions.

The sentences passed by the Magistrates Court were as follows

Number of persons sentenced to simple imprisonment only.	... 82
Number of persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment	... 114
Number of persons imprisoned and fined.	... 10
Number of persons released on probation.	... 182
Number of persons fined only.	... 6991

LAW OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT

The following are the Law Officers of Government in the Alleppey District-

	DESIGNATION	NUMBER
1	District Government Pleader and District Public Prosecutor.	1
2	Additional Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutors.	2
3	Assistant Public Prosecutors Grade I	1
	Grade II	3
4	Assistant Government Pleaders.	Nil.

NUMBER OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

There were 408 Legal Practitioners practising in the Alleppey District in 1963-64, including Advocates of the Kerala High Court.

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Bar Associations function in all those centres where there are major courts of law. The earliest of the associations is the Bar Association, Mavelikara. It was founded in 1085 K. E. (1909-10) and has been considerably active in public life. It has a library of 1,000 volumes and has its own office building. The Bar Association Alleppey, was established on Kann 18, 1091 (1915) and was originally known as the Alleppey Vakil's Association. Within a couple of years of its establishment the Association started a library of its own with a donation made by its first President Krishna Ayyangar. In 1965 the Bar Association had a library consisting of books worth Rs. 20,000 and a building costing Rs. 20,000 constructed out of its own funds. The available particulars such as the date of establishment, number of members, etc. of the main Bar Associations in Alleppey District are given below:-

Name of Association	Date of establishment.	No. of members. 1964-65,
Bar Association. Alleppey	1915	175
-do- Mavelikara	1910	64
-do- Tiruvalla	...	36
-do- Kayamkulam	1935	22
-do- Shertallai	...	69
-do- Haripad	1935	45

APPENDIX—I—SUICIDE CASES

		By Drowning	By Poisoning	By Hanging	Other Causes	Total
1958						
Male	{ Adult	3	5	34	2	44
	{ Non-adult	...	...	...	...	...
Female	{ Adult	2	5	13	7	27
	{ Non-adult	..	..	..	..	..
1955						
Male	{ Adult	2	11	38	6	57
	{ Non-adult	3	..	2	..	5
Female	{ Adult	4	6	9	2	21
	{ Non-adult					
1960						
Male	{ Adult	4	7	32	..	43
	{ Non-adult	..	1	1	..	2
Female	{ Adult	..	11	13	..	24
	{ Non-adult	..	..	..	..	..
1961						
Male	{ Adult	4	15	38	4	56
	{ Non-adult	..	..	..	..	..
Female	{ Adult	5	6	4	..	15
	{ Non-adult	..	1	..	..	1
1962						
Male	{ Adult	3	13	53	1	70
	{ Non-adult	..	..	3	..	3
Female	{ Adult	1	4	7	1	13
	{ Non-adult	..	..	..	..	..
1963						
Male	{ Adult	10	23	38	4	75
	{ Non-adult	..	1	..	..	1
Female	{ Adult	3	11	15	..	29
	{ Non-adult	1	..	1	..	2
1964						
Male	{ Adult	6	17	41	4	68
	{ Non-adult	1	2	1	1	5
Female	{ Adult	2	13	11	..	264
	{ Non-adult	1	1	1	1	

1965

Male	{ Adult	..	14	46	6	66
	{ Non-adult	..	1	4	1	6
Female	{ Adult	..	14	8	1	23
	{ Non-adult	..	1	0	0	1

1966

Male	{ Adult	14	34	54	5	107
	{ Non-adult	4	..	2	..	6
Female	{ Adult	4	21	8	1	34
	{ Non-Adult	1	..	..	..	1

APPENDIX—II

List of Sub-Divisions, Circles, Police Stations and Out-posts of Alleppey District

POLICE STATIONS		OUT-POSTS
I ALLEPPEY SUB-DIVISION		
1 Alleppey Circle	Alleppey South	Punnappra, Pallathuruthy
	Alleppey North	Boat Jetty, Alleppey
	Ambalapuzha	Thottappally
	Pulimkunnool	Champakulam
	Ramankary	Kainady
	Edathua	Nil
2 Shertallai Circle	Shertallai	Arathinkal
		Ponnampveli
	Kuthiathode	Vallethodu
	Arookutty	Poochakkal
	Muhamma	Mararikulam
II CHENGANNUR SUB-DIVISION		
1 Chengannur Circle	Chengannur	Nil
	Thiruvalla	Nil
	Keezhvalpur	Perumpatty
		Mallappally
		Puramattom
	Mannar	...
2 Keyamkulam Circle	Kayamkulam	Nil
	Haripad	{ Thrikkunnapuzha
		{ Kanakakkunnu
	Pandalam	Nuranad
	Mavelikara	Vallikkunnam

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The organisational set-up of some of the departments not dealt with in the other Chapters is considered here.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department functions in the District through three divisions, viz., the Buildings and Roads Division, the Majors Irrigation Division and the Minor Irrigation Division. The details are given below;—

BUILDINGS AND ROADS DIVISION, ALLEPPEY

The jurisdiction of this Division is coterminous with that of the revenue District of Alleppey. It comprises of 6 Sub-divisions and 15 Sections, the details of which are given below:—

Sub Divisions	Sections	Jurisdiction
1 Alleppey	1 Alleppey Town 2 Pulinkunnu 3 Ambalapuzha	} Ambalapuzha and Kutianad Taluks
2 Shertallai	1 Pattanakkad 2 Shertallai	
3 Haripad	1 Haripad 2 Kayamkulam	
4 Mavelikara	1 Mavelikara 2 Pantalām 3 Bharanikavu	} Karthikappally and a portion of Karunagapally Taluks Mavelikara and a portion of Chengannur Taluk
5 Chengannur	1 Chengannur 2 Aranmula	
6 Tiruvalla	1 Tiruvalla 2 Vennikulam 3 Kunnamthanam	

The Division is under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Building and Roads, Alleppey. The Sub-Divisions and Sections are under Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers respectively.

MAJOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, ALLEPPEY

The Division which is under the Executive Engineer Alleppey, attends to Irrigation Works, Anti-Sea Erosion Works, the Salt Water Barrier work at Tannirmukkam and Minor Port Works. Its

jurisdiction covers the Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Kuttanad Taluks. There are 4 sub-divisions in this Division each of which is under the charge of an Assistant Engineer. The details of the sub-divisions are given below:—

IRRIGATION SUB-DIVISION, ALLEPPEY

This Sub-Division is in charge of Irrigation Works and Anti Sea Erosion Works within Ambalapuzha and Kuttanad Taluks. There are four Junior Engineers under this Sub-Division with headquarters at Alleppey (Two Sections), Tottappalli and Shertallai.

MECHANICAL SUB-DIVISION, ALLEPPEY

The Mechanical Workshop, Dredgers and Dry dock are under the control of this Sub-Division.

PROJECT SUB-DIVISION No. 1 TANNIRMUKKAM

This Sub-Division attends to construction of a salt water barrier at Tannirmukkam. The headquarters of all the four Junior Engineers under this Sub-Division are at Tannirmukkam.

PROJECT SUB-DIVISION No. 2 TANNIRMUKKAM.

There are three Junior Engineers under this Sub-Division at Tannirmukkam. This Sub-Division also attends to construction of Salt Water Barrier at Tannirmukkam.

It may also be mentioned that this Division is in charge of the entire Kottayam District. There is a Sub-Division at Changana-cherry to attend to the works in this District.

MAJOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, QUILON

A portion of the Alleppey District forms the Mavelikara Sub-Division of the Major Irrigation Division, Quilon. It is comprised of four Taluks viz., Mavelikara, Karthikappally, Tiruvalla and Chengannur and part of the Ambalapuzha Taluk upto Tottappalli Spill way. This division attends to all anti-sea erosion, flood control and navigation canal works in the above area. The Division came into existence on May 1, 1963. Till then it was under the control of the Quilon Irrigation Division (Alleppey) with headquarters at Alleppey. The Division has completed about 3,600' sea wall at Trikkunnapuzha and 3,200' of sea wall in portions between Tottappalli, and Trikkunnapuzha (Pallana), 9 groynes at Azhikkal, 13 groynes at Srayikkad north of Alappad. Flood control works at Achencoil and Pampa rivers are being attended to by this Division. In addition, construction of groynes flood banks etc., deepening and maintenance of navigation canals and construction of cargo and passenger jetties are also among the functions of this Division.

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, CHENGANNUR

The Minor Irrigation Division, Chengannur, has jurisdiction over the whole District. The details of the Sub-divisions and Sections are given below:—

Sub-division	Sections
Chengannur	1 Chengannur 2- Tiruvalla 3. Maramon 4 Pantalam
Shertallai	1 Shertallai 2. Alleppey 3 Haripad 4 Mavelikara
Investigation Sub Division Chengannur }	1 Alleppey 2 Movelikara 3 Chengannur

The first two Sub-Divisions and the Sections thereunder function for the execution, maintenance etc. of irrigation works in the areas under their respective jurisdictions. The Investigation Division Chengannur and the Sections under it conduct detailed investigation for collecting important data and studying relevant aspects relating to future irrigation schemes.

The head of the Division Office is the Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Chengannur. Each Sub-Division is under an Assistant Engineer and each Section under a Junior Engineer.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Public Health Engineering Department functions in the District under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Public Health, Alleppey. There are three Sub-Divisions comprised in this Division each of which is under an Assistant Engineer. The details are given below:—

PUBLIC HEALTH SUB-DIVISION, MAVELIKKRA

The headquarters of this Sub-Division is at Mavelikara. Two Sections, viz. Public Health Section, Mavelikara and Public Health Section Kayamkulam, are functioning under this Sub-Division with head quarters at Mavelikara and Kayamkulam respectively.

PUBLIC HEALTH E. S. I. SUB-DIVISION ALLEPPEY

This Sub-Division, formerly known as Public Health Sub Division Alleppey, functions with Alleppey as its head-quarters.

Under this Sub-Division there are three Sections, viz., Public Health Section Alleppey, Public Health (E. S. I) Section Alleppey and Public Health Section, Haripad. The headquarters of the first two sections is at Alleppey and of the other at Haripad.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUB-DIVISION, SHERTALLAI

This Sub-Division which has its headquarters at Shertallai has under it only one section called the Public Health Section, Shertallai.

The Division Store is under the direct control of the Division at Alleppey.

The main function of the Public Health Division Alleppey is to attend to the works connected with the rural, urban and village water supply schemes, construction of medical buildings costing upto Rs- 25,000 and maintenance of all medical buildings. Besides, this Division also attends to the construction of the E. S. I. Dispensary quarters which come under the Employees State Insurance Scheme. In the Division Store Departmental pipes (C. I., A. C. and R. C. C) cement and M. S. Rods are kept and issued for the works undertaken by the Division. Further, there is a Mechanical Sub-Division with headquarters at Trivandrum to attend to the work of sinking of tube wells in this District.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The Joint Director of Agriculture, Package Programme, Alleppey with his headquarters at Alleppey is in charge of the Department of Agriculture in this District. He is immediately responsible to the District Collector, Alleppey as well as to the Director of Agriculture, Trivandrum. As far as the agricultural extension activities are concerned the Joint Director of Agriculture is the final authority in the District. He is invested with duties of controlling supplies and services and guiding and supervising the extension activities at Taluk and Block levels. He is responsible for the organisation and co-ordination of activities of such field workers as the District Agricultural Officer, Additional District Agricultural Officer, Specialists, Agricultural Extension Officers and other Assistants, Fieldmen, Demonstration Maistries, Co-operative Extension Officers, Statistical Investigators etc. working in the Agricultural Department, as well as in the Community Development Blocks. The powers of supervision and inspection of the demonstration and trial plots and administration of four farms working in the District.

(Three for paddy and one for sugarcane) and also the tapioca research station are vested in him. He is also vested with over-all control over the 100 acre farm established at Mavelikara which is under a Superintendent. He is helped by the following officers, each attending to some specific functions vested in him:

- 1 District Agricultural Officer.
- 2 Additional District Agricultural Officer.
- 3 Assistant Director of Agriculture
- 4 Subject Matter Specialist (FM)
- 5 Subject Matter Specialist (PP)
- 6 Soil Science Specialist.
- 7 Seed Development Officer.
- 8 Agronomist.
- 9 District Agricultural Information Officer.
- 10 Additional District Agricultural Information Officer.
- 11 Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
- 12 Assistant Director of Statistics.
- 13 Assistant Agricultural Engineer.
- 14 Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
- 15 Farm Superintendent, District Agricultural Farm, Mavelikara

As Alleppey is a Package District the staff pattern in a Package Block is quite different from Blocks not selected for the implementation of the Package Programme. In addition to normal staff strength in a Block, there are two Agricultural Extension Officers, one Co-operative Extension Officer, one U. D. Clerk and 10 Additional Fieldmen posted in a Package Block which are all borne on the staff of the Department of Agriculture. All the seventeen Blocks in this District have been selected for the implementation of the Package Programme.

The work of Agricultural Extension Officer is to supervise the preparation of individual farm production plans and their implementation in the package area according to the package of practices fixed. They have to formulate and execute the Agricultural programmes in consultation with the Joint Director of Agriculture, various specialists under him, and the Block Development officers in their respective areas. They organize Farmers' Societies arrange Village Leaders Training Camps, arrange meetings and group discussions, guide the cultivations, and advise them in the scientific methods of cultivation, supervise, and guide the work of the field

staff under them such as *Gramasevaks* Fieldmen, Maistries, etc. They are also expected to establish personal contacts with the farming public, instil sense of confidence and make them follow the advice of the Department. There are altogether 47 Agricultural Extension Officers in this District. In addition, there are four Seed Farm Assistants, three Seed Development Inspectors, one Research Assistant, one Agricultural Assistant, two Technical Assistants, one Plant Protection Assistant and two Marketing Assistants, who are all in the cadre of Agricultural Assistants. There are 15 Co-operative Extension Officers, two Statistical Inspectors, and nine Upper Division Investigators working under the office of the Joint District of Agriculture. The Co-operative Extension Officers are appointed for bringing more agricultural families under the co-operative fold, and making co-operative credit easily available to the agricultural families engaged in scientific cultivation according to the farm production plans prepared. The main work of the Statistical Inspectors and Investigators is to conduct crop cutting experiments on a wider scale and conducting bench mark and assessment survey.

All the Blocks in this District have been selected for the implementation of the package programme. They are 1, Pattanakkad, 2. Kanjikuzhi, 3, Ambalazha, 4. Hapud, 5. Mavelikar, 6. Mutukulam, 7. Kulanada, 8. Changanur, 9. K. Ipuram, 10, Mollaprally, 11 Pulkizh, 12. Champakulam, 13. Veliyanad, 14 Bhanikavu 15. Pantalam 16. Aryad, 17. Tekkumuri. All package blocks except Veliyanad and Champakulam are provided with a Tractor-cum-trailor and additional transport facilities. For Veliyanad and Chempakulam blocks one motor boat is provided. An Agricultural Engineering Workshop has been set up at Alleppey to fabricate and demonstrate new implements suitable for this area. A Soil Testing Laboratory has also been established in this District in 1965-66 and it helps the cultivators to get their soils analysed and obtain the necessary recommendations.

The Information Wing of this office has a film unit, an offset press and other communications media like cameras, tape recorder etc. Films on agricultural topics are shown to the agriculturists systematically and the cultivators are informed of the latest scientific developments. Extensive propaganda is also being made through pamphlets, group discussions, radio talks, bit notices, film strips, slides etc. Training to officers and farmers is being given at District and Block levels and through the Co-operative Societies.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT

The District Veterinary Officer is the head of the Animal Husbandry Department at District level. He is vested with the responsibility of supervising the activities of the veterinary institutions, Key Village centres and Artificial Insemination centres and also exercising technical control over the Animal Husbandry activities in the Development Blocks. The District Veterinary Officer is also directly responsible for the successful implementation of the various development schemes under the Five Year Plan and also for co-ordinating the activities of the department and the N. E. S. Blocks.

In the routine day-to-day work, the District Veterinary Officer is assisted by a Technical Assistant. The Veterinary Surgeons are in charge of Veterinary Hospitals and Veterinary Dispensaries, Artificial Insemination centres and Key Village Centres and in N. E. S. Blocks. Extension Officer for Animal Husbandry are entrusted with direct responsibility of carrying out Animal Husbandry activities. There are also Veterinary Dispensaries and Veterinary Centres where Livestock Assistants are posted. But the nearest Veterinary Surgeon is placed in charge of these centres both for technical and administrative matters.

In Alleppey District there are 6 Veterinary Hospitals, viz., at Shertallai, Alleppey, Ambalapuzha, Mavelikara, Haripad and Tiruvalla and 20 Veterinary Dispensaries and Veterinary centres located at Kuthiatode, Kanichukulangara, Kayampur, Kalavur, Punnappra, Mankompu, Muttar, Kayamkulam, Kattanam, Nuranad, Pantalam, Chengannur, Cherianad, Thelliyur, Kunnamthanam, Kottangal, Kottanad, Viyapuram, Pulikizh, Mannar and 7 A. I. Centres at Shertallai, Alleppey, Ambalapuzha, Haripad, Pullad, Pulikizh and Amallur. There is also a Key Village Block at Mavelikara with 10 sub-centres.

Poultry Husbandry activities form an important item of work of the Department. The Central Hatchery at Chengannur has developed into a big institution from where chicks of improved variety are distributed to various Blocks and also to bonafied Poultry-Breeders. Kayamkulam, Mankompu and Chengannur are three important egg exportation centres. From Kayamkulam during season time nearly 90,000 eggs are exported daily. The daily average of Chengannur is 50,000.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Alleppey, is the head of the Co-operative Department in the District. He is responsible for the proper and smooth functioning of all Co-operative Societies other than Industrial Co-operatives. The Deputy Registrar is assisted by three Assistant Registrars, one each for Administration, Planning and Consumers Co-operatives. In order to exercise effective control over the Co-operatives spread over the entire District, the Alleppey District is divided into 18 administrative circles and one Junior Inspector each is put in charge of the circles. He is considered to be the officer primarily responsible for the working of the societies on sound lines. In addition, there are also 4 Liquidation Inspectors to look after the work connected with liquidated societies. Their jurisdiction is separately demarcated.

The audit of accounts of the Societies is done by the Auditors under the Deputy Registrar (Audit), Trivandrum.

Similarly the work connected with the Package Programme is looked after by the Deputy Registrar (Package Programme) under the Joint Director of Agriculture, Alleppey.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

The District Industries Officer with his headquarters at Alleppey is the head of the Industries Department in the District. He is directly responsible to the Regional Joint Director of Industries and Commerce who has his headquarters at Trivandrum. The District Industries Officer is in charge of all the industrial activities of the District. He acts as the Registrar of Industrial Co-operative Societies with powers to register such societies.

The District Industries Officer is assisted by the Coir Development Officer in the Coir wing and the Handloom Development Officer in the Handloom wing. The headquarters of the officers mentioned above are at Alleppey and Quilon respectively. The Coir wing in the District is divided into six circles, viz., Alleppey, Puchakkal, Turavur, Shertallal, Karthikapally and Kayamkulam. The Handloom Development Officer supervises all activities connected with Handloom industry in the District. He is assisted by two Inspectors, one at Mavelikara and the other at Alleppey.

The Office of the District Industries Officer comprises of the following Field Staff.

1	Technical Supervisor.	1
2	Organiser (Small Scale Industries),	1
3	Inspector of Cottage Industries.	1
4	Senior Co-operative Inspector.	1
5	Junior Co-operative Inspectors.	3

There are 17 Extension Officers for Industries in the various N. E. S. Blocks in the District and they are in charge of the industrial activities in the Block areas. Their main function are to explore the possibilities of developing suitable industries in the blocks, to persuade interested parties to start new industries, to give technical advice to new industrialists and to give them financial aid by way of loans and grants from the block budget. The Extension Officers (Industries) function under the administrative control of the Block Development Officers and under the technical control of the District Industries Officer.

The main functions of the Inspectors of Industrial Co-operative Societies are the inspection of industrial co-operative societies and giving guidance for their proper working. The Organiser of Small Scale Industries undertakes matters connected with the development of Small Scale Industries and the implementation of plan schemes under small scale industries. The Inspector of Cottage Industries undertakes the activities connected with the development of Handicrafts and attends to the work of the training and production centres. The Technical Supervisor attends to works of a technical nature such as valuation of machinery and investigation into applications for the purchase of machinery and permits for controlled commodities.

The Industries Department in Alleppey District has the following institutions under its control.

- 1 Quality Marking Depot for Soaps & Oils (Plan Scheme).
- 2 Granite Carving Centre, Chengannur (Plan Scheme).
- 3 Tailoring & Garment Making Centre, Kayamkulam (non-Plan Scheme).
- 4 Common Facility Service Centre, Mannar (Plan Scheme).
- 5 Quality Marking Depot for Bell Metal, Mannar (Plan Scheme).
- 6 Metal Mirror Unit, Aranmula (Plan Scheme).

The Rural Industries Project which functions at Alleppey is under the administrative control of the Industries Department and

is separate from the office of the District Industries Officer, Alleppey. The head of the Project is an Officer in the rank of a Deputy Director.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

The District Statistical Officer is the head of the Bureau of Economics and Statistics at the district level. He is responsible for the systematic collection and preliminary compilation of all statistical data relating to the District. The District Statistical Officer is assisted in his office by the Senior Research Assistant, Research Assistants and Compilers in the technical side and by the ministerial staff in the administrative side. In the field, there are Statistical Inspectors and Investigators at Taluk level and Junior Statistical Inspectors at the Block level.

The permanent Agricultural Surveys conducted by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics such as the Land Utilisation Survey, Coconut and Arecanut Survey and Crop Cutting Survey are undertaken under the over-all direction of the District Statistical Officer. Further, collection of data like railborne statistics, plantation statistics, port statistics and prices statistics is also done by the staff under his control and supervision. During the latter half of 1963, Government issued orders declaring the District Statistical Officer as District Registrar responsible for compilation of data pertaining to Vital Statistics. In order to help the District Statistical Officer in this work a Senior Research Assistant has also been appointed.

Consequent to the setting up of the Administrative Intelligence Unit in the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, the District Statistical Officer is also responsible for the supervision and technical control of the Administrative Intelligence Unit at the Block level. The monthly, quarterly and annual reviews of the various activities of the blocks are prepared by him.

Moreover, the work relating to the compilation and preparation of the monthly and quarterly progress reports of the various Plan Schemes implemented by the Government in the District is done by the District Statistical Officer on the basis of reports collected from the various District Offices and presented before the District Development Council.

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL FUND ACCOUNTS

The office of the District Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Alleppey (under the Local Fund Audit Department) conduct the

audit of accounts of all Local Fund institutions such as Municipal Councils, Panchayats, Orphanages and Poor Homes and of such other Grant-in-aid institutions as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time. The District Inspector of Local Fund Accounts with headquarters at Alleppey is the head of the office and he is assisted by a team of 8 Auditors. He is directly responsible to the Zonal Officer, v. z., the Assistant Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, South Zone, with his headquarters at Trivandrum. The institutions are visited at least once in an year when the audit of accounts for a financial year is taken up. The defects and irregularities noticed during audit are embodied in the audit report which will be communicated to the head of the institution with a copy thereof to the concerned administrative authority. This department is also responsible for furnishing utilization and eligibility certificates in respect of grants and loans sanctioned to local bodies and other miscellaneous institutions for some specific purposes.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The District office of the Department of Public Relations is known as the District Information Office. The Information Officer Alleppey, is the head of the office. He issues press releases on departmental activities with special emphasis on Five Year Plan work. He is also the press liaison Officer of Government at the district level. He gathers information on developmental work implemented by Blocks and other departments and focuses attention of the public on these activities by issuing feature articles to the press and the Departmental journals like *Kerala Sandesh* etc. He occasionally visits Information Centres in the N. E. S. Blocks and guides in the proper functioning of these centres. Information regarding local reactions to the policies and activities of the Government is also transmitted from the District Information Office to the head of the District. The other functions of the District Information Officer include the effective distribution of the publicity materials relating to Five Year Plans, making arrangements for Press conferences or interviews with journalists for State Guests. Press coverage of all important functions connected with Developmental activities is also made by this Office. Publicity meetings on all important occasions are also organised by him.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

EARLY HISTORY

Local self-governing institutions have functioned vigorously in Kerala even from very early days. In the early and mediaeval periods local representative assemblies called *kuttams* effectively controlled the actions of rulers and preserved the rights and privileges of the people. The Alleppey District had its own *kuttams* which existed at various levels. In the age of the Second Chera Empire (800-1102 A.D.) Odanad and Nantuzhainad had their assemblies which were called the *Munnuttunar* (Three Hundred). The local rulers carried on their administration only in accordance with the wishes of these assemblies. Local self-governing institutions of this type functioned in some form or other until they became defunct the wake of the British conquest of country and the consequent break-up of the self-sufficient village economy in the mid-nineteenth century.

GROWTH OF MODERN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Local self government in the modern sense is only of recent growth in this District. The reforms introduced in British India in the field of local self-government by the famous Resolution of Lord Ripon dated May 18, 1882 had their reactions in the Indian States as well. In 1894 the Town Improvement and Conservancy Regulation (1069 K.E.) was passed in Travancore. It provided for a Town Improvement Committee and a Town Fund for Alleppey. The membership of the Town Improvement Committees set up under the Regulation varied from five to nine with a permanent official majority. The Committee had only limited powers confined to the supervision of sanitary arrangements. It had no powers of taxation at all. In 1895-96 rules were framed to regulate vehicle traffic under the Town Improvement Committee. Special sanitary arrangements were made in Alleppey in order to prevent the possible importation of plague into the town. A special contagious disease hospital was sanctioned in 1897. The system of private scavenging made considerable improvement under the Town Improvement Committee. The Regulation of 1894 was superseded by the Regulation of 1901, which authorised local taxation with the prior sanction of the Government. In 1903 (1079 K.E.) the house scavenging system was introduced under the Town Conservancy and

Improvement Regulation and it was followed a few years later by the scavenging fees system. By the year 1910 (1085 K.E.) house tax began to be levied by the Town Improvement Committee. Regulation V of 1085 (1909-10) introduced certain amendments in order to improve the working of the Regulation. New Committees were formed at Kayamkulam and Tiruvalla in 1086 K.E. (1910-11). The President of the Town Improvement Committee of Alleppey was given increased powers of appointment and punishment. In 1087 K.E. (1911-12) the rate payers of Alleppey were allowed the privilege of electing four non-official members to the Committee. In the meantime Regulation II of 1088 K.E. (1912-13) gave the Presidents of all the Town Improvement Committees powers of inspection and control of sale of foodstuffs and aerated water. The supervision and control of cattle pounds were also transferred to the Committees in the same year. Two more Committees were formed in this District at Mavelikara and Haripad in 1089 K.E. (1913-14). The privilege of electing the non-official members was extended to all the Committees and by 1094 K.E. (1918-19) all of them came to have non-official majorities. A further advance was made in the next year when non-official Presidents were appointed to the Town Improvement Committees at Alleppey, and Mavelikara. In 1095 K.E. (1919-20) a new Regulation was passed on the lines of the latest law in force in British India at the time constituting the Town Improvement areas into Municipalities and prescribing a new constitution for the Councils. The maximum official as well as non-official element in the councils were fixed. The scope of the municipal activities was enlarged and the discretionary duties of the Municipal Councils defined. The privilege of electing non-official Presidents was extended to all the Councils in this District except Mavelikara which had a nominated non-official President. The powers of the Presidents in regard to appointment were enhanced in 1921 and the pay of the municipal staff revised in 1922. The minor roads and streets in Alleppey town were also transferred to the council in pursuance of the resolution of the Municipal Conference held in 1095 K.E. (1921-22). Street lighting in the respective towns was also undertaken by the Councils at their own cost. Besides attending to public health and sanitation, the Councils also discharged some other obligatory functions like vaccination and registration of births and deaths.

In 1941 the Travancore District Municipalities Act was passed in order to reorganise the existing Municipalities in the State and

according to the provisions of this Act the Municipalities in this District were also reorganised. The Shertallai town was raised to a Municipality in 1953 under the provisions of this Act. The latest piece of municipal legislation in Kerala is the Kerala Municipalities Act 1960 which governs the working of all the Municipalities in the District at present. The Municipal authorities charged with carrying out the provisions of the Act are (1) the Council, (2) a Standing Committee of the Council, (3) a Chairman and (4) a Commissioner. All the Councillors are to be elected, the strength of each Council ranging from 16 to 42 according to population. The term of office of the Councillors is five years. Every Council is to have a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman elected from among its members. The Chairman convenes the meetings of the Council and presides over them. The Standing Committee is to be elected by the Council from among its members. It is to consist of five members if the strength of the Council is 20 or less and seven members when the strength is more than 20. It has an elected Chairman. The Commissioner is appointed by the Government in consultation with the Council and he is the chief executive officer of the Municipality. Every Municipal Council may levy (1) a property tax (2) a profession tax (3) a tax on animals, vessels and vehicles (4) a show tax (5) a tax on advertisements and (6) a duty on certain transfers of property in the shape of an additional stamp duty. Every Municipality constituted under the Kerala Municipalities Act 1960 is also vested with the usual civic functions such as those relating to the provision of water supply, lighting and drainage, maintenance and repair of streets, numbering of buildings, grant of permission to construct buildings, control over abandoned lands and insanitary buildings, grant of licence for places in which animals are kept, provision of Municipal slaughter houses, regulation of milk trade, maintenance of public markets, provision of public cartstands, licensing of places for disposal of the dead, compulsory registration of vital statistics, compulsory vaccination etc. etc.

The first step towards the development of local self-government in the rural areas of the District was taken with the promulgation of the Travancore Village Panchayat Regulation 1100 K.E. (1925). Under this Act the Government had power to declare any revenue village or group of villages as a village for this purpose of this Act and set up a Village Panchayat for the area. Airur in Tiruvalla Taluk was one of the places selected in the State for the introduction of this experiment in rural self-government. The Panchayats constituted

under the Regulation were to consist of not less than 5 and not more than 11 members. Their functions included the construction, maintenance and repair of communications and drains, street cleaning, excavation, maintenance and improvement of wells and tanks for the supply of water to the public for drinking and bathing construction and maintenance of bathing ghats, opening and maintenance of burial grounds, control and management of cattle pounds and the enforcement of sanitation. The Travancore Village Union Regulation of 1940 provided for Village Unions, a type of local-Self-governing organisation, slightly less powerful than the Village Panchayats. Within the limits of their resources the Village Unions attended to certain public utility services such as cleaning of streets; the construction, maintenance and improvement of wells and tanks for supply of drinking water to the public, opening of burial and burning grounds, control and management of cattle pounds and provision for stud bulls, sanitation, clearing silt from canals or channels and carrying out of petty irrigation works. After the integration of Travancore and Cochin the Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act II of 1960 was passed. The first Panchayats to be constituted under this Act assumed office on August 15, 1963. The Panchayat Act which is in operation at present in the Alleppey District as elsewhere in Kerala is the Kerala Panchayats Act of 1960 which provides for a unified and decentralised system of administration of village affairs through Panchayats by organising them as units of local-self-government at village level.

KAYAMKULAM MUNICIPALITY

The Kayamkulam Municipality was established in 1910-11. It has an area of 8.41 square miles (21.78 sq. Kms) and a population of 44,567 according to the Census of 1961. The municipal area is divided into 24 wards of which two each are reserved for Scheduled Caste and for women. The sanctioned strength of the Council is 28. The Council elects a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its members. It has constituted a Standing Committee of its members under the provisions of the Kerala Municipalities Act (1960). In addition, it has several sub-committees set up for specific purposes. In 1963-64 there were 22 such sub-committees of the Council. The chief executive authority of the municipality is the Commissioner who is appointed by the Government in consultation with the Council.

The Public Works Staff of the Kayamkulam Municipality consists of 1 P. W. D. Overseer and 1 Works Superintendent. The Council maintains 58 miles of roads within the municipal area. The details of the roads are furnished below:-

Metalled	4 furlongs
Gravelled	23 miles 3 furlongs
Earthen roads	34 miles 1 furlong

At the same time the Public Works Department maintains 4 miles of Trunk Road and 2 miles of District Road in the municipal area. The Council maintains no ferries or rest houses. There were 849 street lights under the council in 1963-64 and an amount of Rs. 20,020.95 was spent on street-lighting during the year. The total expenditure on Public Works was Rs. 41,466.

The Kayamkulam Municipality maintains no medical institutions. However, it gives a monthly grant of Rs. 20 each to two Ayurvedic Physicians. The Public Health Staff consists of 2 Health Inspectors and 2 Health Assistants. There is one Midwife under the Council. The Health Assistant and the Midwife attend to the vaccination work in the Municipality in addition to other routine duties. The Council also maintains public latrine and 3 urinals. The rubbish and dirt soil are collected from different parts of the town and utilised for the preparation of compost manure. Scavenging work is undertaken in 248 houses. A scheme for the construction of 200 E. S. P. type latrines is being implemented by the Council. There is no protected water supply scheme in the Municipality. Government have, however agreed to undertake on behalf of the Municipality the execution of the Kayamkulam Water Supply Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 17 lakhs. The main source of drinking water supply at present is the public wells constructed at different parts of the town.

The Kayamkulam Municipality maintains a Library and Reading room. In 1963-64 it had a collection of 3,417 books.

The Municipality levies the property tax, profession tax, tax on vehicles and animals, tax on advertisements, entertainment tax, show tax and duty on transfer of property under the provisions of the Kerala Municipalities Act (1960). In 1963-64 a total of 4,561 houses had been assessed by the municipality. The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 3. 52. The remunerative enterprises owned by the Municipality include 2 municipal

markets, 4 licensed private markets, municipal cart stand and 1 public slaughter house. In 1963-64 the Municipality got Rs9, 103.35 from the markets, Rs, 1,300.65 from the cart stand and Rs.4,414.59 from the slaughter house.

SHERTALLAI MUNICIPALITY

The Shertallai Municipality was constituted in 1953. It has an area of 6.25 sq miles (16.19 sq. Kms) and a population of 31 155 according to the Census of 1961. The Municipality is divided into 20 wards of which four are double-member wards. Wards Nos. II and XV are double-member wards reserved for women and Ward Nos. VI & XX for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Council thus consists of 24 members. The Council elects a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its members. The meetings of the Council are regularly convened every month and special meetings are held, whenever necessary. The chief executive authority of the Municipality is the Commissioner who is appointed by the Government in consultation with the Council.

The Public Works establishment of the Shertallai Municipality is under a Public Works Overseer. The Municipality maintains 11.466 Kms. of gravelled roads within the municipal area while 40.388 Kms of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department. The percentage of expenditure on roads to the total expenditure incurred on public works by the Municipality in 1963-64 was 49 per cent. The Municipality maintains neither any major bridge nor any rest house. It has installed 503 electric street lights. Twenty-three kerosene lights are also lit where the electric line has not been extended. An amount of Rs. 15,051 was spent on street lights during 1963-64.

The Public Health staff of the Council consists of one Health Inspector, three Health Assistants and two Peons. Four Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are functioning under the Council. The staff of these centres consists of four midwives, three attenders and one honorary Doctor. The honorary Doctor attends each centre twice a week rendering medical aid and advice to children and expectant mothers. The total expenditure incurred on Maternity and Child Welfare centres in 1963-64 was Rs. 16,838.38. The Public Health staff of the Municipality attends also to the registration of births and deaths and vaccination within the municipal area. The Council has a scheme for providing E.S.P. (Environmental Sanitation Project) type latrines to the benefit of the inhabitants of the

town. The roads, public premises etc, are swept and cleaned daily by the sweepers employed by the Municipality. The rubbish collected is sold in public auction and the sale proceeds are credited to the municipal fund. The bucket system of night soil scavenging has not been introduced in this Municipality. Of the total number of 6,745 houses within the municipal area only 625 houses were provided with latrines in 1963-64. A protected water supply scheme is in force. There is no comprehensive drainage system.

The Shertallai Municipality maintains a Municipal Library and Reading Room in the Municipal Office building itself. The total number of books in stock in the library in 1963-64 came to 8,583. The Municipality also gives grant-in-aid to two Kalari Schools in the town at the rate of Rs. 10 per mensem. A radio with two loudspeakers is provided in the Municipal office.

The Shertallai Municipality levies the property tax, profession tax, show tax and advertisement tax etc. There were 4,220 buildings assessed to property tax in 1963-64. The remunerative enterprises owned by the Council include the municipal market, slaughter house and a private market. The income from the market and slaughter house was Rs. 2,191.26 in 1963-64 and that from the private market Rs. 828.83.

ALLEPPEY MUNICIPALITY

The Alleppey Municipality grew out of the Town Improvement Committee set up in 1069 K.E. (1893-94) under the Town Improvement and Conservancy Regulation passed during the year. The area of the Municipality is 18.06 sq. miles and its population 138,813 according to the Census of 1961. The Council consists of 36 members elected from 33 wards into which the town has been divided. Three wards are double-member wards. In two of these wards seats are reserved for women and in one for Scheduled Castes. The Council has a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman elected from among its members. The Commissioner appointed by the Government in consultation with the Council is the chief Executive Officer of the Municipality. In addition to the Standing Committee constituted under Section 13 of the Kerala Municipalities Act (1960) the Council has constituted four other committees also, viz., the Library Committee, the Sanitation Committee, the Public Works Committee and the Poor Home Committee.

The Public Works establishment of the Municipality is under a Municipal Engineer who is assisted by a Public Works Supervisor

three Public Works Overseers and two Works Superintendents. The total length of roads maintained by the Council is 24 miles and 6 furlongs. The Council maintains six ferry services free of charge. The local Satram is under its control and the Municipality realised a sum of Rs. 3,744 as Satram fees in 1963-64. During the same year there were 1931 electric lights and 47 high power lights under the Council and a sum of Rs. 52,400 was spent on street lighting alone.

The Public Health staff is under a Health Officer. The Council runs its main Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in a municipal building and five subsidiary centres in rented buildings. The staff working in these centres consists of four Lady Doctors, 6 Midwives, 2 Nurses, 11 Attenders, 2 Sweepers and 2 Stipendiary Volunteers. There are 3 Health Inspectors and 10 Health Assistants to attend to sanitation work and five vaccinators to attend to the work of vaccination. Night soil from the bucket-type house latrines, septic tank latrines etc. is collected by scavengers and deposited in night soil drums placed in different localities of the town. These drums are removed in lorries to the trenching ground at Kalavur and the night soil and other refuse are converted into compost manure. In 1963-64 the Municipality received a sum of Rs. 750 from the sale of compost manure. There is a protected water supply system in the town. Water is drawn from tube wells at Punnappra and Tukkulam, four miles and two miles respectively from the town. There are four reservoirs in various places of the town. Water is pumped from the wells almost for all the 24 hours and these tanks are used for balancing the supply. A total of 5,50,000 gallons per day is supplied for houses from these wells and reservoirs. There were 1,219 house connections in the town in 1963-64. Moreover, the Municipal Council has also provided public wells and tanks at different points in the town in order to provide drinking water during emergency. There is no comprehensive drainage system in the town. There is a comfort station in this town which contains 6 bath rooms and 6 latrines.

The Alleppey Municipality maintains a Municipal Library and Reading Room opened in 1947. There is also a Distributing Library attached to the Municipal Library. The Municipality also gives a grant in-aid to 15 Libraries in the town. There are two public Radios under the Council, one in the main Municipal Park in the Palace Ward and the other in the northern Municipal Park in Kommadi Ward.

The Alleppey Municipality levies the property tax, profession tax, show tax, tax on advertisements, tax on entertainments and tax on vehicles and animals. It also owns remunerative enterprises. There is a vegetable municipal market at Vazhecherry conducted twice a week. In addition there are 8 private markets in the town. There are also two public slaughter houses under the Council. In 1963-64 the Council got an income of Rs. 20,577.75 from the markets and Rs. 8,600 from the slaughter houses.

MAVELIKARA MUNICIPALITY

The Mavelikara Municipality started functioning in 1941. It has an area of 5.25 sq. miles (12.63 Sq. Rms.) and a population of 18,974 according to the Census of 1961. The Council has 20 members elected from 18 wards of which two are double member wards. One seat is reserved for women in Ward No. XVII. The Council has Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected by the members from among themselves and a Commissioner appointed by the Government. It has a Standing Committee constituted under the provisions of the Municipalities Act. In addition it has also constituted a Tax Appeal Committee to hear tax appeal petitions.

The Public Works establishment of the Mavelikara Municipality is under an Overseer. The Council maintains 6.5 miles of gravelled roads and 25 miles of earth roads within the municipal area. In 1963-64 it incurred an expenditure of Rs. 15,684 on the maintenance of these roads. The Council does not maintain any major bridge or rest house. The total number of street lights installed by the Council was 1189 and the expenditure incurred on street lighting came to Rs. 18,584.58 in 1963-64.

The public Health staff under the Council consists of a Health Inspector, a Health Assistant and a Midwife. They attend to the work of registration of births and deaths and vaccination. There are 19 miles of roads which are swept daily and 20 miles periodically. Scavenging in houses is being done only on a limited scale. There is no piped or protected water supply in the town. The Municipality has, however, constructed 24 wells for use of the public. There is also no drainage scheme in the Municipality.

The Mavelikara Municipality maintains a Reading Room and a library. The total number of books in the library in 1963-64 was 3,675.

The Council levies the property tax, entertainment tax, tax on professions, advertisement tax and tax on vehicles, vessels and animals. Apart from the income from taxes the Municipality derives some revenue from remunerative enterprises also. There are 4 public markets under the Council, viz.; the Putiakavu Vegetable Market, the Putiakavu Fish Market, the Tattarambalam Market and the Kandiyur Cattle Market. In 1963-64 the Council derived an income of Rs. 3,583 from the markets. It was also maintaining one slaughter house which fetched an income of Rs. 900 during the year,

THE TIRUVALLA MUNICIPALITY

The Tiruvalla Municipality was originally started as a Town Improvement Committee in 1910-11. It has an area of 5.59 sq. miles (14.48 sq. Kms) and a population of 24,242 according to the Census of 1961. The municipal area is divided into 18 wards. One seat is reserved for Scheduled Castes in Ward No. X and another in Ward XIV for women. Thus the total number of members in the Council is 20. The Tiruvalla Municipality has its Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected by the Councillors and the Commissioner appointed by the Government in consultation with the Council. In addition to the Standing Committee set up under the provisions of the Municipalities Act, the Council has set up 6 special Committees viz., the Public Works Committee, the Public Health Committee, the Library Committee, the Bus Stand Committee, the Hotel Sanitation Committee and Cattle Market Committee.

The Public Works section of the municipal establishment is under an overseer. The Council maintains 29 Kms. of roads within the municipal area and a sum of Rs. 3,025.20 was spent by it for the maintenance of these roads in 1963-64. Free ferry services are maintained at Chakrasshalana Kadavu, Chirapad and Veliam. No rest houses or choultries are maintained by the Council. In 1963-64 there were 942 electric lights in the Municipality and a sum of Rs.13,449.79 was spent on street lighting.

The Public Health section of the Municipality consists of one Health Inspector and 3 Health Assistants including two vaccinators. No Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are maintained by the Council. The Tiruvalla Municipal Council maintains 4 public latrines and 10 public urinals. Private scavenging service has not been introduced in this town. There is neither any protected water supply nor any comprehensive drainage system.

The Tiruvalla Municipality maintains a Library and a Reading Room which was opened in 1928 and it is one of the oldest libraries in this District. In 1963-64 it had a collection of 4,926 volumes.

The revenue of the Municipality is derived from taxes as well as from remunerative enterprises. The taxes collected are property tax, profession tax, tax on vehicles and animals and tax on advertisements. The number of buildings assessed to tax in 1963-64 was 3,611. The Council maintains two daily markets, viz., the Ramapuram Vegetable Market and the Municipal Daily Market and also a fortnightly Cattle Market. In 1963-64 it derived an income of Rs. 16,268.47 from these markets. The Council also maintains one Slaughter House from which it derived an income of Rs. 488.28 during the year. The Council maintains a bus stand since October 14, 1966.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES

A statement of the receipts and expenditure of all the five Municipalities in the District is given at Appendix in this Chapter.

PANCHAYATS

The Directive Principles of State Policy, contained in Article 40 of the Indian Constitution proclaim, that the State shall take step to organise Village Panchayats and endow them with such power and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of local self government. Consequently the Panchayats that existed in the Travancore and Cochin areas of the state were reconstituted on the basis of an Act passed in 1950 (Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act II of 1950). With the passing of the Act new Panchayats were also set up in places where there were neither Panchayats nor Village Unions. These Panchayats started functioning with effect from August 15, 1953. The Kerala Panchayats Act of 1960 which is the latest in the series has provided for a unified and decentralised system of administration of village affairs through Panchayats by organising them as units of local self-government at village level. The new Panchayats elected under the Act assumed office on January 1, 1964.

ORGANISATION OF PANCHAYATS

The entire District of Alleppey excluding the municipal areas is divided into 94 Panchayats. The area of the panchayat is generally coterminous with the revenue unit, viz., the village, but in certain cases more than one village or parts thereof constitute a Panchayat.

The Panchayat is governed by a representative body elected on the basis of adult franchise. The Panchayat area is divided into wards for the purpose of election. In those wards where the Scheduled Castes constitute not less than five percent of the total number of voters, a seat is reserved for them. All the rest are single member wards. The number of members in each Panchayat is fixed by the Government on the basis of population. According to the Panchayat Act 1960, Panchayat areas with a population not exceeding 10,000 at the latest Census elect seven members and Panchayat areas with a population exceeding 10,000 elect one additional member for every population of 3,500 subject to a maximum of 15 members. A Panchayat to which no woman has been elected as member is entitled to nominate a woman to be a member of the Panchayat at a special meeting convened for the purpose. The term of office of the members of a Panchayat is fixed as five years under the Act. But the Government may, by notification in the Gazette, reduce or extend the term of office of the members of any Panchayat. Soon after the Panchayat election, the members of each Panchayat elect from among themselves a President and a Vice-President at a meeting duly convened for the purpose. When the office of the President falls vacant, an acting President can be appointed by the Director of Panchayats until a new President is elected.

The administration of the Panchayat area is vested in the whole Panchayat comprising of the President, Vice-President and the members. The President convenes meetings of the Panchayat, forwards half-yearly reports to the Deputy Director of Panchayats, and performs all the duties and exercises all the powers specifically conferred on the President by the Act. The President has full access to all records of the Panchayat and no official correspondence between the Panchayat and the Deputy Director and authorities above him may be conducted, except through the President. The Panchayat meets at least once in a month. One third of the total number of members forms the quorum for ordinary meetings, but for special meetings, the quorum is half the number of members. The Panchayat may constitute Functional Committees for different subjects such as sanitation, communication, public health, education etc. Such Committees may consist of both Panchayat members and others who are interested in the Public Welfare and who are nominated by the Panchayat. The Panchayat may constitute also Ward Committees with the ward members and other local inhabitants nominated by the Panchayat to study and report on the needs of the wards. In cases

of emergency the President or the executive authority of the Panchayat can order any work of the Panchayat to be executed without the previous sanction of the Panchayat. But such action has to be reported to the committee at its next meeting and has to be ratified by it. The president has to make a report to the Director of Panchayats, within three days after each meeting of the Panchayat, about the proceedings of the meetings.

PANCHAYAT ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL

For purposes of administration the Panchayats are classified into four Grades on the basis of their annual income inclusive of grants and contributions from Government.¹ The following are the four grades of Panchayats:—(1) Special Grade Panchayats having an income of more than Rupees one lakh and which are notified as special grade by the Government. (2) Grade I Panchayats having an income between Rs. 50,000 and Rupees one lakh. (3) Grade II Panchayat having an income between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000 (4) Grade III Panchayats having an income of less than Rs. 20,000. It may be noted that there is no Special Grade or First Grade Panchayat in this District. Of the 94 Panchayats 8 are Second Grade and 86 Third Grade. For the proper conduct of Panchayat administration, whole time executive officers called Panchayat Officers are appointed by the Government in all Panchayats. The executive power of the Panchayat rests with the Panchayat Officer. He has the right to attend the meetings of the Panchayat, though he cannot move resolutions or take part in the voting. He is bound to carry out the resolutions of the Panchayat, execute Panchayat works subject to the provision made in the annual budget, maintain records and control and supervise subordinate servants of the Panchayat. He carries on correspondence on behalf of the Panchayat, but as noted earlier, such correspondence takes place only through the President. The President however, is bound to transmit to the proper destination all the papers sent to him by the Panchayat Officer. If the Panchayat does not have a Panchayat Officer the latter's duties devolve on the President. The Government of Kerala have also conferred the powers of a *Proverthicar*—in respect of the Revenue Recovery Act on the executive authorities of certain Panchayats in the State.²

1 G.O.MS. 183/63/DD. dated 2-3-1962.

2 Vide Notification—Revenue B Department No. 46065/B3/60/Rd., dated November 11, 1960.

Above the Panchayat Officers there are the Panchayat Inspectors. There is Panchayat Inspector for each Block to superintend the working of the Panchayats. There are seventeen such Panchayat Inspectors in the Alleppey Revenue District. They inspect the accounts of the Panchayats once in every month. They are also the authorities empowered to countersign the Pay and T.A. Bills of the Executive Officers and the staff of the Panchayats. At district level there is a District Panchayat Officer who is the immediate superior of the Panchayat Inspectors. He is empowered to inspect and superintend the working of the Panchayats. He is immediately responsible to the Deputy Director of Panchayats, Quilon, who is the Regional Officer having jurisdiction over three revenue Districts.

FUNCTIONS OF THE PANCHAYATS

According to the Kerala Panchayats Act 1960 the Panchayat has the following obligatory functions:—

a) the construction, repair and maintenance of all public roads in the Panchayat area other than roads classified as National Highways, State Highways, the roads of the Malabar District Board and of all bridges, culverts, road-dams and cause-ways on such roads.

b) the lighting of public roads and public places;

c) the construction of drains and the disposal of drainage water and sullage;

d) the cleaning of streets, the removal of rubbish heaps, jungle growth and prickly-pear, the filling in of disused wells, insanitary ponds, pools, ditches, pits or hollows and other improvements of the sanitary condition of the Panchayat area;

e) the provision of public latrines and arrangements to clean latrines whether public or private ;

f) the opening and maintenance of burial and burning grounds ;

g) the sinking and repairing of wells, the excavation, repair and maintenance of ponds or tanks and the construction and maintenance of water-works for the supply of water for washing and bathing and drinking purposes;

h) preventive and remedial measures connected with any epidemic or with malaria;

i) control of offensive and dangerous trades;

j) construction and maintenance of petty irrigation works ;

k) control of cattle pounds;

l) registration of births and deaths.

In addition to the obligatory functions, a Panchayat may also, if it deems fit, make reasonable provisions for carrying out the requirements of the Panchayat area in respect of the following matters viz.

1. Agriculture:
 - a) the improvement of agriculture and establishment of model agricultural farms
 - b) the establishment of granaries;
 - c) bringing under cultivation waste and fallow lands belonging to or vested in the panchayat;
 - d) ensuring conservation of manurial resources, cultivation of green manure, preparing compost and sale of manure;
 - e) the establishment and maintenance of nurseries of improved seeds and seedlings ;
 - f) provision of implements, stores, insecticides, etc;
 - g) the promotion of co-operative farming;
 - h) the conducting of crop experiments, launching of crop protection schemes and crop competitions.
 - i) the construction, repair and maintenance of irrigation works, field channels and distribution of water ;
 - j) encouraging farmers' clubs and other associations of agriculturists;
 - k) assistance in the implementation of land reform scheme;
 - l) execution of soil conservation schemes;
- (ii) Animal Husbandry:
 - a) improvement of cattle and cattle breeding and the general care of livestock.
 - b) the promotion of diary farming;
 - e) the maintenance of stud-bulls and stud-goats;
 - d) the promotion of poultry farming and bee-keeping;
- (iii) Education and Culture
 - a) the spread, supervision and improvement of education ;
 - b) the establishment and maintenance of children's parks, clubs and other places of recreation for the welfare of women and youth;
 - c) the promotion of art and culture including the establishment and maintenance of theatres;
 - d) the establishment, maintenance and encouragement of reading rooms and libraries;
 - e) noon-feeding of school children;

f) the establishment and maintenance of community listening sets, recreation centres and centres for physical culture, sports and games,

g) the erection of memorials for celebrities and historical personages;

(iv) Social Welfare....

a) maternity and child welfare including the establishment and maintenance of orphanages and foundlings homes;

b) the relief of the old and the infirm and the physically handicapped and the sick;

c) assistance to the residents when any natural calamity occurs;

d) family planning;

e) organising voluntary labour for community works for the development of the villages;

f) destitute homes and beggar homes;

(v) Public Health and Sanitation:—

a) preservation and improvement of public health;

b) supply of water;

c) sanitation, conservancy and the prevention and abatement of nuisance and disposal of carcasses of animals;

d) the disposal of unclaimed corpse;

e) the disposal of unclaimed cattle;

f) the taking of measures to prevent the outbreak, spread and recurrence of any infectious disease and vaccination;

g) the reclaiming of unhealthy localities;

h) providing medical relief ;

i) the inoculation of animals and birds;

j) the disposal of stray and ownerless dogs;

k) the establishment and maintenance of dispensaries and the payment of subsidies to rural medical practitioners ;

l) control of fairs and festivals;

m) maintenance of the purity of fish, meat and other food stuffs ;

(vi) Public Works:—

a) the planting of trees along roads, in market places and other public places and their maintenance and preservation;

b) the construction, maintenance and control of bathing and washing ghats;

c) the construction and maintenance of buildings for ware houses, stores, shops, purchasing centres etc.,

d) construction and maintenance of houses under colonisation and settlement schemes;

e) construction and maintenance of choultries and rest houses ;

f) construction and maintenance of houses for Panchayat staff and other village functionaries;

g) the establishment and maintenance of works for the provision of employment, particularly in times of scarcity;

h) the extension of village sites and the regulation of buildings and housing schemes;

i) the opening of and maintenance of public markets, slaughterhouse, bus stands, cart-stands, landing places, halting places and ferries and also the licensing of such places opened and maintained by private individuals and institutions; and

vii) General:—

a) preparation of plans for the development of the Panchayat area;

b) the promotion, improvement and encouragement of cottage and village industries;

c) promotion of pisciculture;

d) preservation of objects of archaeological interest;

e) the promotion of social and moral welfare of the inhabitants of the Panchayat area including the promotion of prohibition, promotion of social equality, amelioration and the condition of the backward classes, the eradicating of corruption and the discouragement of gambling, litigation and other anti social activities;

f) the encouragement of any of the services and activities mentioned above by grant-in-aid or otherwise;

g) any other measure of work which is likely to promote the health, safety, education, comfort, convenience or social or economic or cultural well-being of the inhabitants of the Panchayat area.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Under the provisions of the Kerala Panchayats Act (1960) every Panchayat has to levy in its area a building tax, a profession tax and a vehicle tax. The building tax has to be levied on all buildings in the Panchayat area at such percentage of the net annual rental value of the building as may be fixed by the Panchayat subject to a maximum of 10 per cent and a minimum of 4 per cent. The profession tax has to be levied from every company which transacts business and every person who exercises a profession

within the Panchayat area at such rates as may be fixed by the Panchayat not exceeding the maximum rates prescribed under the rules. The vehicle tax may be levied on all vehicles except motor vehicles kept or used in the Panchayat area at such rates as may be fixed by the Panchayat not exceeding the maximum rates prescribed. A cess on all lands in the Panchayat area except those exempted by the Government has to be levied at the rate of 2 np. per annum for every 5 cents of land or part thereof. Land cess is to be collected as if it is a basic tax. Service tax not exceeding such rates as may be prescribed for sanitation, watersupply, scavenging, street lighting and drainage may be levied with the sanction of the Director. A duty in the form of a surcharge on the duty imposed by the Kerala Stamp Act 1960 shall be levied on certain transfers of property in the Panchayat area. The Panchayat may, if it resolves also levy a show tax on all shows in its area at the rates prescribed by the Government. The Act also provides for payment by the Government annually to each Panchayat a grant which shall be equal as near as may be to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount of basic tax collected by the Government from the Panchayat area in the preceeding year. The Government has also to pay to the Panchayats a grant the aggregate of which shall be as near as may be equal to the balance of the basic tax collected by the Government in the preceding year from all the lands in the State in such proportion as any be fixed by the Government in having regard to the area, population, available resource and needs of development of the Panchayats and the cost of the Panchayat administration. In addition a Panchayat may with the sanction of the Director levy either from the whole Panchayat area or for any specific portion thereof for a specified period a surcharge on building tax in order to cover any unusual expense incurred by it in respect of education, treatment of diseases including maternity and child welfare services, supply of protected water, scavenging and drainage. The surcharge is however not to exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tax levied.

Moreover, Government also usually sanctions Special Grants to Panchayats every year for specific purposes. Other grants given by Government are building grants and establishment grants. Building grants are sanctioned to a few Panchayats every year for the construction of their office buildings. Four or five Panchayats are selected each year for this purpose and each is given about Rs. 2,500. The balance required for the purpose has to be met from the

Panchayats.

The total receipts and expenditure in respect of the 94 Panchayats in Alleppey District for each of the years from 1959-60 to 1963-64 are given below.

Year	Receipt Rs.	Expenditure Rs
1959-60	12,21,571.58	1,10,191.84
1960-61	7,94,795.35	10,20,507.12
1961-62	5,99,527.56	8,35,586.06
1962-63	22,00,500.64	8,50,369.55
1963-64	7,90,555.17	15,15 966.29

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PANCHAYATS

The Panchayats in Kerala carry on manifold activities. Public works claim the major part of their expenditure. Public works of a minor character such as small bridges, culverts, roads, bunds, foot-paths, sluices etc. are undertaken by them. Moreover, bathing ghats, urinals, latrines, wells and similar works providing public health amenities are also executed. Many of the Panchayats provide irrigation facilities by renovating tanks and constructing field channels etc. The work of maintenance of village roads is also attended to by Panchayats. The Panchayats in the District have under them a total road mileage of 1092 miles of which 65 miles are metalled and the rest unmetalled. Panchayats also engage themselves in the execution of numerous public works sponsored by the N.E.S. Blocks by giving contributions from their fund.

The Panchayats provide health amenities of all kinds to the public. Twelve Panchayats in the Alleppey District have one midwife each under their service. Provision of good drinking water is one of the functions of the Panchayat. The Panchayats in the District maintain 863 wells to provide good drinking water to the public. There are also 39 piped water supply schemes owned by Panchayats. In addition, the Panchayats meet the cost of maintenance of 17 such schemes owned by the Public Health Engineering Department. Some of the Panchayats provide medical aid. There are 6 Panchayats in this District which gave monthly grants ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 150 to Ayurvedic and Visha Vaidyasalas. Street lighting is another important function of Panchayats. The total number of electric lights provided in the Panchayats in the District exceed 13 500. Markets form an important source of income for most of the Panchayats in this District. The total number of

markets maintained by the Panchayats come to 161 of which 87 are public markets and 74 private markets. At the same time there are 12 public slaughter houses and 55 private ones under the Panchayats in the District. There are also 6 cattle pounds run by the Panchayats in this District. Ferry service is another useful amenity provided by Panchayats. There are 39 Panchayats in Alleppey District which conduct 147 ferries in all. The Nilamperur Panchayat was conducting as many as 17 ferries. Twenty Panchayats in this District have theatres of which 9 are permanent and 11 temporary. The Panchayats also engaged themselves in social and cultural activities in the villages by opening libraries and reading rooms under their management and by giving grants to others. Seventeen Panchayats have reading rooms and libraries of their own. The Cherianad Panchayat has 4 Libraries and the Mararikulam North Panchayat 5 under its management. Besides Libraries and Reading Rooms, physical and educational institutions such as sports clubs, recreation clubs, nursery schools, Mahila Samajams etc are also given grants-in-aids by Panchayats. Moreover, some of the Panchayats have also taken up the responsibility of primary education by conducting educational institutions. Eight Panchayats in this District maintain primary schools. They are Mararikulam South, Mananchery, Haripad, Kumaramparam, Arattupuzha, Pathiyur, Budanour and Mohamma. Installation of community listening sets is another important activity of the Panchayats. Intensive family planning activity is also organised under the auspices of the Panchayats. Two Panchayats in this District, viz., Chepad and Ambalapuzha have Yogasana instructors in order to impart training in the yogic system of physical education to the villagers.

The total expenditure incurred by the Panchayats in Alleppey District on public works, public health and medical services and educational and cultural activities in 1962-63 and 1963-64 is given below.

Year	Public Health and		Educational and Cul- tural activities
	Public works	Medical Services	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1962-63	4,34,410.62	47,727.16	11,797.00
1963-64	4 90 555 17	12,80,716 88	49,016 71

Organisation and Working of Two Typical Panchayats in the District.

HARIPAD PANCHAYAT

The Haripad Panchayat is a Third Grade one. The Panchayat area is divided into 6 wards, but there are eight members of whom one is a member of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and another a nominated woman member. The staff structure of the Panchayat is as shown below:-

Post	No.	Scale of Pay Rs,
1 Executive Officer	1	40-120
2 Panchayat Assistants	2	35-80
3 Panchayat Peon	1	25-30

The Panchayat Office is located in a building of its own constructed in 1957-58. This Panchayat has engaged itself in diverse activities in spite of the limited sources at its disposal. There were 243 street lights under the Panchayat in 1963-64. Irrigation works benefiting an area of 571 acres of paddy fields had been carried out at a cost of Rs. 36,421 till the end of 1964. The Panchayat had also constructed and improved about 15 miles of Village Roads. There is a Lower Primary School under its management. The Panchayat has constructed 5 culverts, 34 wells and 3 foot bridges. Ferry services are being conducted in 4 places in this Panchayat area. The sanitary arrangements in connection with the festivals in the Haripad temple are being attended to by this Panchayat. The Panchayat also gives yearly grants to Vaidyasala and Dispensaries and Libraries. In 1964-65 a boy from this Panchayat area who secured the first rank in the S.S.L.C. Examination in Kerala State was honoured at a public meeting. Two temporary sheds measuring 100' x 20' and 80' x 20' were erected by the Panchayat in 1963-64 with a sum of Rs. 2,000 raised from local contributions with a view to solving the problem of overcrowding and lack of accommodation in the local Government High School for Girls.

The main sources of income of this Panchayat are (1) Land Cess (2) House tax (3) Profession tax (4) Income from Market (5) Entertainment tax (6) Taxes from theatre (7) Vehicle tax (8) Licence fee and (9) Grants and contribution. The receipts and expenditure of the Haripad Panchayat for each of the years 1961-63 to 1964-65 are furnished below.

	1961-62	1262-63	1963-64
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Grand Total	39,718.11	47,400.84	32,180.58
Opening balance	8,287.65	24,365.52	1,258.03
Receipts during the year			
(including grants)	31,430.46	23,035.32	30,922.55
Expenditure	15,352.59	46,092.81	27,297.10

The receipts of the Panchayat for 1964-65 was as follows:-

	Receipts	Rs.
Total:		35,430.00
Opening balance		4,933.48
Grand Total;		40,363.48
1 Grants and contribution		3,630.00
2 Rates and taxes		15,000.00
3 Revenue derived from Panchayat properties		2,200.00
4 Realisation under special regulations		12,500.00
5 Panchayat fee		2,200.00
6 Miscellaneous		500.00
Expenditure		
Total:		37,160.00
Working balance		3,203.48
Grand Total:		40,363.48
1 Management and collection		12,010.00
2 Public Works		16,000.00
3 Sanitation and lighting		5,600.00
4 Education		350.00
5 Miscellaneous		3,200.00

CHENGANNUR PANCHAYAT

The Chengannur Panchayat is the most thickly populated Panchayat in the Alleppey District. According to the 1961 Census, it had a population of 22,272. The Panchayat area of 4.26 sq. miles is divided into 9 wards. There are 11 members in the Panchayat of whom one is a member of the Scheduled Castes and another a woman nominee. The members of the Panchayat meet at least thrice a month. The Chengannur Panchayat gets the highest income among the Panchayats in this District. The staff pattern is as follows.

Name of Post	No.	Scale of Pay Rs.
1 Executive Officer	1	80— 180
2 Panchayat Assistant	1	35—80
3 Bill Collector	2	30 — 50
4 Peon	1	30— 50
5 Library attender	1	Allowance of Rs. 25
6 Market Sweeper	1	25+25+12=62
7 Scavenger	1	25 + 25+12 = 62

The Panchayat Office is housed in a building of its own constructed in 1960-61. More than half of the income of the Chengannur Panchayat is set apart for public works, including improvements to and construction of roads, lanes, bridges, culverts, irrigation canals, slaughter house, markets etc. The Panchayat has spent huge amounts by way of contribution for the construction of a Veterinary Hospital and Suspension Bridge. More than 6 wells were constructed under the L. D. Scheme on contribution basis.

A site having an area of 1.66 acres was purchased at a cost of Rs. 20,000 for the construction of a private bus stand and an amount of Rs. 40,000 was provided in the budget for 1964-65 for this purpose. The public market which is located in the heart of the town is an important remunerative enterprise owned by the Panchayat. The Panchayat has spent a considerable amount of its income every year for the improvement of the market. An amount of Rs. 9,000 has been spent for the construction of the slaughter house. Special care is being taken to prevent adulteration of food by collecting the prescribed monthly quota of food samples. Almost all the roads and lanes are provided with street lights, the total number being 702. One Reading Room and Library is functioning under the management of the Panchayat. Steps have been taken to conduct a Nursery School which is now being run by the Chengannur Mahila Samaj. The Panchayat has installed five Radio sets including one in the Radio Kiosk constructed in the public market. It runs one permanent ferry and four seasonal ones. It is worthwhile to note that the Panchayat has installed a Telephone in its office in 1963-64. The Council hall under the Panchayat provides accommodation for more than 100 persons. A portion of the development works in this area is undertaken by the Village Volunteer Force.

The main sources of income of the Panchayat are land cess, building tax, profession tax, income from market, show tax, entertainment tax, vehicle tax and license fees. The expenditure of the

Panchayat goes mainly under such items as public works, lighting sanitation and establishment. There has been considerable progress in the receipts and expenditure of the Changannur Panchayat in recent years. The statement of receipts and expenditure for the years 1969-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64 is given below.

	1961-62 Rs.	1962-63 Rs.	1963-64 Rs.
Grand Total:	68,780.64	73,187.93	81,172.95
Opening Balance	12,792.66	28,000.35	27,080.61
Receipt during the year	55,987.98	45,186.58	54,092.32
Expenditure	40,779.29	46,521.32	80,077.14

The details of the budget estimate for 1964-65 are given below.

Income		Rs
Total		1,30,656
1 Panchayat taxes and rates		40,200
2 Realisation under special Acts		10,000
3 Revenue derived from Panchayat properties		28,800
4 Panchayat fee		5,560
5 Government Grants and contributions		5,400
6 Miscellaneous revenue		1,700
7 Government loans		25,000
8 Deposits		3,400
9 Surcharge of profession tax		9,500
Opening Balance		1,096
Expenditure		Rs-
A. General Account:		
Total:		1,30,656
1. Management and collection		16,010
2 Public works		4,000
3 Education		1,660
4 Public Health		4,050
5 Lighting		10,100
6 Social Welfare		300
7 Panchayat properties		3,910
8 Expenditure Extraordinary		1,350
9 Management		800
10 Public works		69,800
11 Education		300
12 Refund of deposits		3,200
13 Surcharge on profession tax		8,775
Closing balance:		6,401

APPENDIX I
ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNT OF THE MUNICIPALITIES IN ALLEPPEY DISTRICT (1963-64)

Item	Kayamkulam Rs.	Sherattai Rs.	Alleppey Rs.	Mavelikara Rs.	Tiruvalla Rs.
Receipts					
Grand total including opening balance	2,76,969.88	2,33,365.73	12,64,026.20	1,68,116.46	2,34,998.05
Deducting on account of refund of Revenue	...	---	...	1,37,974.70	36,844.85
1 Opening balance	59,416.91	50,597.24	2,40,925.77	30,141.76	1,00,757.56
2 Total Receipts	2,17,552.97	1,82,768.49	10,23,100.43	1,60,736.09	2,71,842.05
i Grants and contributions	13,624.86	13,890.36	1,13,719.42	15,522.33	10,872.92
ii Rates and Taxes	1,56,871.08	1,10,010.47	8,76,822.13	1,04,601.32	85,084.03
iii Realisation under Special Acts	812.00	26.50	3,161.56	572.50	14,924.81
iv Revenue derived from Municipal property	43,832.09	2,678.04	51,694.33	7,959.60	40,416.53
v Miscellaneous	2,313.14	29,453.75	1,88,804.22	9,318.95	1,764.60
iv Deposits Accounts	...	26,709.37	29,824.56	22,761.39	18,021.60
Expenditure					
Grand total including closing balance	2,20,975.94	2,33,365.73	11,14,473.54	1,68,116.46	2,71,842.05
1 Closing balance	...	47,996.11	3,91,469.81	37,435.52	1,34,364.60
2 Total Expenditure	2,20,975.94	1,85,369.62	7,23,003.73	1,30,680.94	1,37,477.45
i General supervision & collection of revenue	55,707.20	41,490.48	1,14,968.14	27,970.66	31,124.98
ii Public Works	83,038.43	44,083.84	63,056.65	28,072.34	26,387.96
iii Education	1,801.13	3,316.58	7,587.28	2,367.00	3,924.64
iv Medical Services & Sanitation	45,882.20	41,816.75	4,33,525.85	28,898.11	26,730.22
v Lighting & Other Municipal purposes	20,020.95	15,042.47	61,988.23	18,584.58	14,888.66
vi Interest on sinkink fund	...	...	...	6,901.35	...
vii Miscellaneous	4,362.48	20,793.73	12,504.90	116.90	22,329.15
viii Debt loans	...	14,116.77	1,20,960.80	14,243.00	12,091.84
ix Deposits	9,979.75	4,056.00	24,998.64	...	...
x Advance recoverable	91.00	653.00	1,270.00	3,527.00	...

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Alleppey District had its famous centres of learning and culture in the ancient and medieval periods. In the age of the Second Chera Empire (800-1102 A.D.). Vedic Schools or Colleges called *Salais* functioned as part of important temples and the students of these institutions were given free boarding and lodging. Among the most important *salais* of ancient Kerala was Tiruvalla Salai. According to the Tiruvalla Copper Plates the pupils of Tiruvalla Salai were fed with 350 *nazhis* of paddy at noon in the 11th century A.D. It is clear from this that the institution catered to the needs of a large number of pupils. In the medieval period the most important centre of learning in the District was Ambalapuzha, the seat of the Chempakasseri Rajas, who were great patrons of arts and letters. In the 16th and 17th centuries Ambalapuzha reached the heights of its literary greatness. Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiri, (1560-164) the great Sanskrit scholar composed the famous works *Prakriya Sarvaswom* and *Devanarayana Prasasthi* under the patronage of Devanaraya the Raja of Ambalapuzha. In the 18th century such great scholars as Kunchan Nambiar lived in the Chempakasseri court and composed his famous works.

At the time of the British conquest of the country, the most important indigenous educational institutions of the District were the *Ezhuthupallies* or Pali schools, *Kalaris* or Military Schools and the Vedic Schools. The *Ezhuthupalli* with the *Asan* or Village School master at its head provided facilities for the pupils to acquire elementary knowledge of the three arts. The curriculum of studies in these schools included writing the letters of the alphabet in the sand, writing short verses on *Ola* or Cadjan-leaf, studying by heart some short verses of a devotional character etc. After undergoing studies in the *Ezhuthupallies* the pupils were sent to the *Kalaris* in order to get training in gymnastics and the use of arms. In almost every *Kara* or village there was a *Kalari* from where physical education was imparted to the youth of the land. The Vedic Schools were the institutions meant for higher education in the *Vedas*, the *Sastras* and the *Upanishads*. Besides, those young men who were anxious to proceed for higher studies attached themselves to individual

scholars, physicians and astrologers of eminence who were willing to help the aspirants for knowledge.

BEGINNINGS OF STATE ACTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

The direct activity of the State in the field of education began in erstwhile Travancore more than a century ago when Her Highness Rani Gouri Parvathi Bai with the assistance of Dewan Col. Munro introduced in 1817 a system of free and compulsory education under State control. Malayalam primary schools were established in all the villages and guardians of children between ages of 5 and 10 were enjoined under law to send them to schools. Men of suitable qualifications were appointed as teachers. Every school was to have two teachers paid by the State, each teacher receiving a monthly salary of 50 fanams, a little over Rs. 7. The Tahsildar of the Taluk was to inspect the School once in 15 days and acquaint himself with the details of management find out the number of pupils, the quality of teaching and the level of their studies and send reports to the Government. This was a clear recognition of the principle that the cost of education was a charge on public funds and that the supervision thereof the legitimate function of the State. However, it was only in 1866-67 that primary education was placed on a firm footing. More Malayalam primary schools were also established on a sound basis. The year stands out as a prominent landmark in the history of educational progress.

Origin of Western Education and Pioneer Work done in the District

To the Christian Missionaries goes the abiding honour of having taken the first positive step towards the introduction of Western learning and education in this District as elsewhere in the State. The C.M.S. Missionaries set up a chain of schools in the District and they were assisted in this task by Col. Munro. The name of Rev. Thomas Norton, the first Missionary to be sent to the State by the C.M.S. stands out prominent in this connection. He landed at Alleppey in 1816. After having worked in the Seminary at Kottayam for some years Norton fixed Alleppey as his headquarters and started several schools in the area. Alleppey and Mavelikara were among the earliest centres to be benefited by the educational activities of the C.M.S. Mission. A school for girls seems to have been set up at Alleppey even prior to the year 1825. Mrs. Peet set

up a Girl's School at Mavelikara. Another private English School for girls was started at Alleppey in 1049 K.E. (1873-74). The Mission schools began to receive grants from the Government in the year 1876-1877.

In 1063 R. E. (1887-88) the successful working of the English schools established by the Missionaries led to the entry of the State in the field of English education. The beginnings of English education under State auspices in erstwhile Travancore may be traced to the year 1834 when an English School was started at Trivandrum by Maharaja Swathi Tirunal. The policy of establishing English schools was not confined to the capital town. District English Schools were opened almost at the same time at Kayamkulam, Alleppey etc. In 1069 K.E. (1893 A.D.) in furtherance of the Government's policy of having a range of four high schools running from north to south at a distance of 40 miles from each other, the District school of Alleppey was raised to the High School standard. At the same time Government also followed a generous policy of aiding private educational institutions.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

In the Census of 1961 Alleppey occupies the first rank among the Districts of Kerala in point of total literacy and male literacy. According to the Census figures there are 569,953 male literates and 459,977 female literates in this District. It may be seen that there are 569 literate persons to thousand persons in the total population of the District. The number of literate males to thousand males is 638 and that of literate females to thousand females is 501. The general literacy rate is thus 56.9 percent, the percentages of male and female literacy being 63.8 and 50.1 respectively. It is worth mentioning that the literacy rate in the District is very much higher than the all-Kerala average of 46.9 percent and more than double the literacy rate for India as a whole, i.e. 24 percent. The percentages of male literacy and female literacy for Alleppey are also above the Kerala figures of 55 percent and 38.9 percent respectively. It may be mentioned here that in 1951 Alleppey had only the second rank among the Districts of Kerala in point of literacy, the general literacy rate being 52.87 percent and the male and female literacy percentages being 61.85 and 44.04 respectively. It is clear from the 1961 census figures that during the decade 1951-61 the District had made further strides in the matter of literacy.

The Taluk-wise figures of literacy according to the Census of 1961 are given below:-

Taluk	Total literates	Percentage of literates to the total population	Proportion of literates to total literates in the District
Alleppey District	1,029,930	56.86	100.00
Ambalapuzha	149,985	55.54	14.56
Chengannur	117,762	59.22	11.44
Karthikapally	147,772	51.96	14.35
Kuttanad	113,517	67.08	11.02
Mavelikara	140,933	57.89	13.68
Sherattalai	158,201	50.78	15.36
Tiruvalla	201,760	66.02	19.59

An analysis of the figures given above shows that Kuttanad Taluk stands first in respect of total literacy and education in the rural areas as well as both male and female literacy and education. The honour of having the highest percentage of total literacy and education (67.08 %) among the rural areas of various Taluks in the State also goes to Kuttanad. The Sherattalai Taluk comes last among the Taluks of this District in respect of total literacy in rural areas as well as female literacy. Mavelikara comes last in this District in respect of male literacy and education. Moreover Alleppey Municipal town which has a literacy percentage of 57.71 leads all other towns in Kerala with 70.28% in respect of female literacy.

It may be mentioned here that the effective rate of literacy in the District is 66.07 according to the 1961 Census. This is calculated by excluding the age-group 0-4 from the total population. The subjoined table gives the number of literates by educational level and the effective rates of literacy.

Literates by educational level and effective rate of literacy

Educational level	Persons	Percentage to total literates	Effective rate of literacy (per cent)
Total literates	1,029,930	100.00	66.07
Literates (without educational level)	722,086	70.11	46.32
Primary or Junior Basic	243,702	23.66	15.63
Matriculation and above	64,142	6.23	4.12

The following statement furnishes the effective rates of literacy for males and females.

Effective rates of literacy by sex

Educational level	Effective rate of male literacy (per cent)	Effective rate of female literacy (per cent)
Total literates	74.52	57.93
Literates without educational level)	51.28	41.55
Primary or Junior Basic	17.81	13.54
Matriculation and above	5.43	2.84

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG WOMEN

The education of women made considerable progress in the District since early decades of the 19th century. This was mainly due to the efforts of the Christian Missions. As already stated, a Girls School was established at Alleppey even before 1825. Mrs. Norton, of the C.M.S., who set up her headquarters at Alleppey in the early decades of the 19th century played an important part in promoting the cause of female education in the District. The popular feeling against education of girls gradually subsided as a result of the activities of the Christian Missions in this direction. The mission also employed female teachers in their schools to popularise the cause. They also tried to influence public opinion by publishing pamphlets which described the advantages of female education. A large number of Mission schools were set up in important centres of the District under Missionary auspices. Thus female education made steady progress. Another private English School for Girls was also started at Alleppey in 1049 K.E. (1873-74). The mission schools also received grants from the government in the year 1876-77. At the same time, co-education was also freely allowed in the Vernacular schools with a view to promoting female education. Differentiation in the curricula for Girls Schools and Boys Schools was also attempted by the Government by introducing in the former instruction in such courses as cooking, sick nursing, first aid, needle work, singing etc. In 1964-65 there were 23 High Schools exclusively intended for Girls in this District. Of these 7 were owned by Government and 16 by private agencies. The total number of girl students studying in High Schools came to 74,482. The only Women's College in Alleppey, i.e. the St. Joseph's College for Women, Alleppey was established in 1954.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG BACKWARD CLASSES

The education of the children of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes is given special attention. The students of the Harijan and other backward communities are given stipends, lump sum grants and other financial concessions in all stages of education. The details regarding the number of students given concessions from the Department as lump sum grant, stipend etc. and the expenditure incurred thereon during 1963-64 are furnished below.

Institutions	Scheduled Castes		Other eligible communities	
	No. of students	Amount Rs.	Number of students	Amount Rs.
1 L. P. Schools	21,096	54,488	1,057	3,077
2 U. P. Schools	12,235	2,82,262	664	13,798
3 High Schools	6,236	1,94,096	395	12,772
4 Arts & Science Colleges	191	1,31,769.25	516	1,35,084.26

In the interior and remote places of the District where Harijans are thickly populated, schools are run under the direct control of the Education Department. Officers of the Education Department take special interest in the proper working of the schools. Noon-feeding and CARE feeding are conducted in these schools. Every year each student belonging to the Scheduled Castes is given clothes worth Rs 2. Nineteen such Welfare Schools are functioning in Alleppey District, the details of which are furnished below.

List of Welfare Schools in Alleppey District (1964-65)

Sl. No.	Name of place	Taluk	Highest class	Date of starting	Whether in private building or not
1	Iruvellipra	Tiruvalla	III	1950	Common building (Tiled)
2	Mannar East	Chengannur	IV	1946	Government thatched building
3	Pavukara	do.	I & II	1947	do-
4	Edayaranmula	do.	III	1958-59	do-
5	Perumpulickal	Mavelikara	IV	1944	Tiled building
6	Ulavakkad	do.	IV	1950	Thatched building
7	Tamarakulam	do.	IV	1957	do-
8	Chunkara	do.	IV	1950	Semi permanent (Tiled) Government building

9 Iruvankara	-do-	II	1950	Thatched building
10 Cherukunnam	-do-	III	1957	Tiled building
11 Pallickal East	-do-	IV	1957	Tiled building
12 Vallikunnam	-do-	III	1958-59	-do-
13 Payyanallur	-do-	III	1958-59	-do-
14 Kokkottam- maogalam	Shertallai	IV	1957	do-
15 Kadakkarapally	-do-	II	1950	-do-
16 Punnapra	Ambalapuzha	II	1950	do-
17 Tekkakra	Karthikapally	IV	1947	-do-
18 Karuvatta	-do-	IV	1950	-do-
19 Putuppally (Srayikad)	-do-	I	1951	-do-

With a view to providing vocational training to Harijan youths Training Centres have been established in different parts of the District. There are two Industrial training Centres viz., the Industrial Training Centre, V.V. Gram (Shertallai Taluk) imparting training to 25 candidates in Carpentry and (2) the Industrial Training Centre, Kalavur (Ambalapuzha Taluk) imparting training to 25 candidates in Coir Works. Further Model Welfare Training Centres imparting training to 28 candidates in Carpentry, Weaving and Rattan work have been opened at (1) Haripad (Karthikapally Taluk) (2) Mavelikara (Mavelikara Taluk) (3) Pantalamb (Mavelikara Taluk) (4) Chengannur (Chengannur Taluk) and (5) Tiruvalla (Tiruvalla Taluk). The trainees in the above centres are paid stipend at the rate of Rs. 25 p.m. The duration of the training period is two years. The centres are supervised by a Centre Supervisor and training is imparted in each trade by a qualified Instructor. The Training Centres are put up in good buildings where the students could study conveniently. The Department has taken steps to make the centres well equipped.

Under the scheme of Adult Education Night Schools and libraries are conducted in the village areas. In each Night School, a teacher is appointed to educate illiterate adults. In each library there is a librarian appointed by this Department. The books and furniture required for the institutions are supplied from the Department. In 1964-65 there were 10 Night Schools and 24 libraries in the different parts of the District.

GENERAL EDUCATION

ORGANISATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Alleppey Revenue District comprises of three Educational Districts with headquarters at Alleppey, Mavelikara and Tiruvalla respectively. Each of these Districts is under a District Educational Officer (D.E.O) who is in charge of the Secondary Schools and Training Schools within his jurisdiction. The Alleppey Educational District comprises of the Taluks of Ambalapuzha and Shertalli and portions of Karthikapally and Kuttanad Taluks, the Mavelikara Educational District of the Taluk of Mavelikara and portions of Chengannur and Karthikapally Taluks and the Tiruvalla Educational District of the Taluk of Tiruvalla and portions of Kuttanad and Chengannur Taluks. Each Educational District is sub-divided into Sub-Districts which are under the Assistant Educational Officers (A.E.Os). The Sub Districts in Alleppey Educational District are Haripad, Ambalapuzha, Alleppey, Shertallai, Turavur and Mankombu, those in Mavelikara Educational District are Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Pantalam, Chengannur and Aranmula, and those in Tiruvalla Educational District are Talavadi, Vennikulam, Pullad, Mallappalle and Tiruvalla. The Assistant Educational Officers are in charge of the Primary Schools within their respective jurisdictions.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Pre-Primary classes of the Nursery (Kindergarten) School pattern are conducted in certain centres of the District for the education of children below 5½ years of age. In 1964-65 there were 28 nursery schools in this District. The Taluk-wise details of the number of such schools with particulars of the number of pupils and teachers in them in 1964-65 are given below.

Number of Schools			No. of students		No. of teachers	
Taluk	Government	Private		Boys	Girls	Women
	Total	7	21	728	886	54
Ambalapuha		1	2	88	108	5
Shertallai		..	4	70	60	4
Karthikapally		4	..	98	102	6
Mavelikara		1	3	77	93	7
Chengannur		..	7	90	225	15
Tiruvalla		1	5	305	298	17

There was also one Nursery Training School at Alleppey under the Department of Education which had 39 women trainees and two teachers on its staff.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Primary Education which is free extends to a period of seven years. The first seven Standards are collectively known as the Primary Grade and are divided into two sections. They are (1) Lower Primary and Junior Basic containing any or all of the Standards I to IV and 2) Upper Primary and Senior Basic containing any or all of the Standards V to VII. All Primary Schools are mixed schools and have Malayalam as the medium of instruction.

In the School year 1964-65 there were 623 Lower Primary Schools and 223 Upper Primary Schools. Among the 623 Lower Primary Schools 269 were run by Government and 354 by private agencies. Among the 223 Upper Primary Schools 89 were Government Schools and 134 were private schools. The Table given below shows the number of Primary Schools (Lower and Upper) in each Taluk with details of the number of students and teachers in them in 1964-65-

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Standards VIII, IX and X are collectively known as the Secondary Grade. The Secondary Schools are run by Government as well as by private agencies. The medium of instruction is generally Malayalam. However, for pupils whose mother tongue is Tamil, provision is made for giving instruction in Tamil, if there be sufficient number of pupils. In 1964-65 there were 52 Secondary Schools in the Alleppey District. The following table gives details of the number of Secondary Schools in each Taluk with particulars of the number of students and teachers in them in 1964-65.

Statement of Primary Schools, 1964-65

Particulars	No. of Institutions		No. of pupils on the rolls		No. of teachers	
	Govt.	Private	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Total	358	488	176,353	157,511	3,479	3,872
L.P.S.	269	354	122,408	111,958	1,841	2,226
U.P.S.	89	134	53,945	45,553	1,638	1,646
1 Ambalapuzha						
Lower Primary Schools	23	28	13,264	11,895	310	139
Upper Primary Schools	5	12	7,911	6,282	161	186

Shertallai							
Lower Primary Schools	40	31	25,581	22,869	397	299	
Upper Primary Schools	13	13	4,583	3,729	120	128	
3 Karthikapally							
Lower Primary Schools	38	46	21,781	18,764	223	317	
Upper Primary Schools	15	27	9,550	7,096	374	267	
4 Mavelikara							
Lower Primary Schools	57	52	20,692	18,625	373	382	
Upper Primary Schools	13	20	9,316	7,325	317	227	
5 Chengannur							
Lower Primary Schools	29	45	8,443	8,308	129	159	
Upper Primary Schools	9	17	6,986	6,699	202	239	
6 Tiruvalla							
Lower Primary Schools	48	131	23,513	22,876	260	699	
Upper Primary Schools	22	27	8,665	8,055	290	402	
7 Kuttanad							
Lower Primary Schools	34	21	9,134	8,631	149	231	
Upper Primary Schools	12	18	6,934	6,367	174	197	

Secondary Schools (1964-65)

Taluk	No. of Institutions		No. of pupils on the rolls		No. of teachers	
	Govt.	Private	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Total	30	122	87,219	74,482	3,314	2,445
1 Ambalapuzha	5	9	11,369	9,345	337	321
2 Shertallai	5	13	12,315	7,299	384	286
3 Karthikapally	5	14	11,061	9,773	455	324
4 Kuttanad	1	16	7,773	5,776	298	194
5 Mavelikara	7	20	15,515	13,358	622	421
6 Chengannur	5	15	11,347	10,454	450	360
7 Tiruvalla	2	35	17,839	18,477	768	539

BASIC SCHOOLS

Basic Education was introduced in Kerala by private enterprise in 1946. In 1958-59 the policy of orienting Primary Schools towards the basic pattern was adopted by the Government. Activities which

foster a sense of self-reliance in the pupils formed part of the curriculum of studies. The contents of the syllabus also included pupils' self-government, cultural and recreational activities, national life and practice of simple useful crafts. Basic Training Schools and other post-Basic institutions were also started in order to meet the shortage of trained personnel for Basic Education. The following table gives particulars of the number of Basic Schools in the District with details of the number of students and teachers in them in 1964-65.

Junior Basic Schools 1964-65

Taluk	No. of Institutions		No. of pupils on the rolls		No. of teachers	
	Govt.	Private	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Total	25	1	6,109	5,141	102	156
1 Ambalapuzha	5	..	2,618	2,148	36	54
Chengannur	18	1	3,272	2,739	65	94
3 Tiruvalla	2		219	254	1	8

It may be stated in this connection that basic education, with all its merits, has not been a success in Kerala. The local conditions and requirements prevailing in the State were not taken into consideration and necessary changes made in the scheme before it was actually implemented. This was one of the causes of the failure of the scheme. The absence of trained personnel in institutions has also been a serious handicap. The policy of introducing the scheme first and then training the personnel for its implementation was basically wrong in so far as it actually put the horse behind the cart. The lack of essential materials and other facilities also impeded the progress of Basic Education. The net result of all these factors was the growth of general indiscipline and deterioration of teaching standards. Even the Craft education in schools which formed part of the Basic Education Scheme gradually disappeared. No new schools of the basic type have therefore been started in Kerala recently. The old schools categorised as Basic Schools are functioning with almost all the similarities of the curriculum that is in operation in other schools. Thus an evaluation of Basic Education shows that the implementation of the scheme left much to be desired.

TRAINING SCHOOLS

In 1964-65 there were 18 Basic Training Schools in the District. The Taluk-wise particulars are given below

Taluks	No. of Institutions		No of pupils on the rolls		No. of teachers	
	Govt.	Private	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Total	4	14	1,417	1,749	75	53
1 Ambalapuzha	1	1	117	79	6	2
2 Shertallai	...	1	78	77	6	1
3 Karthikapally	..	1	40	40	3	1
4 Chengannur	1	3	397	550	19	21
5 Mavelikara	1	2	554	500	21	13
6 Thiruvananthapuram	1	6	231	503	20	15

The ~~course~~ training in a Training School extends over a period ~~of one year~~ the minimum qualification for admission to the course ~~is a pass in the~~ S. S. C. Examination. The candidates are by a Board constituted by selected the Public Service commission. The selection of untrained teachers employed in Primary Schools for admission to Training Schools is, however, made by the authorities of the Education Department. The successful trainees are awarded Teachers' Training Certificate.

COLLEGES FOR GENERAL EDUCATION

There are 13 colleges for general education in the Alleppey District. They are the Sanatana Dharma College, Alleppey, N. S. S. College, Pantalam, Marthoma College, Tiruvalla, St. Joseph's College for Women, Alleppey, Sree Narayana College, Shertallai, N. S. S. College, Shertallai, T. K. Madhava Memorial College, Nangiarkulangara, Milad-E Sheriff Memorial College, Kayamkulam, Bishop Moore College, Mavelikara, Christian College, Chengannur, the St. Aloysius College, Edathwa Bishop Abraham Memorial College, Mallappally and St. Michael's College, Shertallai. All the colleges mentioned above except the St. Joseph's College for Women are co-educational institutions. They are also affiliated to the University of Kerala. Brief accounts of each of the colleges are given below.

SANATANA DHARMA COLLEGE, ALLEPPEY

The Sanatana Dharma College, Alleppey was started in June 1946. Located at Sanatanapuram in the suburb of Alleppey it is managed by a board of private trustees. The college offers instruction for the Pre-Degree course, the B. A., B. Com, and B. Sc degree

courses, and post-graduate courses in Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Economics and Commerce. The institution also offers facilities for the post-graduate research course in Zoology. In 1967-68 there were 2172 students on the rolls of the college and 93 members on its teaching staff. The college library had 12646 volumes. There are two hostels attached to the college, one for boys and another for girls. They can accommodate 45 and 65 students respectively.

N. S. S. COLLEGE, PANTALAM

The N.S.S. College, Pantalam, was started in 1950-51 by the Nair Service Society with provision for the Arts and Science groups of the intermediate Course. It is located in Tonnallur village of Mavelikara Taluk. In 1952-53 the college was raised to the first grade level and the B.A. and B.Sc. Degree courses were started. The institution now offers instruction for the Pre-Degree Course, the B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com., Degree courses and M.A. and M.Sc. degree courses in some select subjects. In 1967-68 the college had 2,283 students (1,352 Men and 931 women) on its rolls and 109 members (75 men and 34 women) on its teaching staff. The college library had a collection of 14,727 volumes. There are two hostels attached to the college one for men and another for women. They provide accommodation for 124 and 100 inmates respectively.

MARTHOMA COLLEGE, TIRUVALLA

The Marthoma College, Tiruvalla, which is situated in Kuttapuzha, Tiruvalla Taluk, was started in 1952. It is owned by the Marthoma Church and managed by a Governing Board with the Marthoma Metropolitan as President. The college gives instruction for the Pre-Degree course, the B.A., the and B.Sc., courses and M.A. and M.Sc. courses in select subjects. In 1967-68 it had 1,869 students (1,077 males and 792 females) on its rolls and 85 members (66 men and 19 women) on its teaching staff. The college has a good library and reading room. The total number of books in the library was 16,220. There are three hostels which provide accommodation for 190 students in all.

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, ALLEPPEY

The St. Josephs College for Women, Alleppey, was started in 1954. It is managed by the Canossian Daughters of Charity. The college offers instruction for the Pre-Degree, B.A., and B.Sc., Degree courses. In 1967-68 there were 910 students on its rolls and 44 members on its teaching staff. The college library had 8,205 books.

There is a hostel attached to the college which accommodates about 180 students

SREE NARAYANA COLLEGE, SHERTALLAI

The Sree Narayana College, Shertallai, which is located at Kanichukulangara, 4½ miles south of Shertallai town, was started in 1964. It is managed by the Sree Narayana Trusts, Quilon. The college offers instruction for the two year Pre-Degree course. In 1967-68 it had 588 students (395 men and (193 women) on its rolls and 32 teachers) 20 men and 12 women) on its teaching staff. The college library had 2,130 volumes. There is no hostel attached to the college.

N. S. S. COLLEGE, SHERTALLAI

The N. S. S. College, Shertallai, which is located at Kochuramapuram, Pallippuram, (Shertallai Taluk) was started in 1964 by the Nair Service Society. It offers instruction for the two year Pre-Degree Course. In 1967-68 the college had 614 students and 25 teachers. The college library had 2050 books. There are no hostels attached to the college.

T. K. MADHAVA MEMORIAL COLLEGE, NANGIARKULANGARA

The T.K. Madhava Memorial College, Nangiarkulangara (Karthikappally Taluk) was started in 1964. Its management is vested in the Sree Narayana Trusts. The college offers instruction for the two year Pre-Degree course. In 1967-68 there were 910 students (517 men and 393 women) on its rolls and 28 members (18 men and 10 women) on its teaching staff. The college library had 4,365 volumes. There were no hostels attached to the college.

BISHOP MOORE COLLEGE, MAVELIKARA

The Bishop Moore College, which is located in Kallumala junction, about 2.5 furlongs east of the Mavelikara Railway Station, was started in 1964. The Bishop of the Central Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India is the Manager of the college. Its day-to-day administration is vested in a managing body with the Bishop as Chairman. The college offers instruction for the two year Pre-Degree course and B.A. and B.Sc. Degree courses. In 1967-68 there were 1,194 students (661 males and 533 females) on its rolls and 40 teachers (33 men and 7 women) on its teaching staff. The college library had 9,268 volume. There are no hostels attached to the college.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, CHENGANNUR

The Christian College, Chengannur, which is situated about a mile south of the Chengannur town near the Main Central Road started functioning in 1964. It is managed by the Marthoma Syrian Church. The College offers instruction for the two year Pre-Degree course of the Kerala University. In 1967-68 it had 963 students (542 males and 421 females) and 40 teachers (34 men and 6 women). The college library had 3,833 volumes. The college provides no hostel facilities.

MILAD-E-SHERIFF MEMORIAL COLLEGE, KAYAMKULAM

The Milad-E-Sheriff Memorial College, Kayamkulam, was started in 1964. It is managed by the Central Travancore Muslim Educational Trust. It offers instruction for the two year Pre-Degree course. In 1967-68 the college had 800 students and 28 teachers. The College library had 5,000 volumes. There were no hostel facilities. It is worth mentioning that the Nizam of Hyderabad made a donation of 2 lakhs of Rupees to the College Fund.

BISHOP ABRAHAM MEMORIAL COLLEGE, THURUTHICAD

The Bishop Abraham Memorial College is located in Thuruthicad village, Tiruvalla Taluk. Started in 1965 its affairs are managed by the Bishop Abraham Memorial Trust, which includes among others, one representative of the St. Thomas Evangelical Church. The College offers instruction for the Pre-Degree Course. In 1967-68 it had 782 students on its rolls (504 males and 278 females) and 28 members (20 males and 8 females) on its teaching staff. The college has two hostels, one for boys with 13 inmates and the other girls with 7 inmates.

ST. ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE, EDATHWA

The St. Aloysius' College, Edathwa was founded in 1965. It is managed by a Board consisting of representatives of the St. George's Parish Edathwa, the College Staff and the University. In 1967-68 it had 560 students (322 males and 238 females) on its rolls and 22 members (19 males and 3 females) on its teaching staff. The College offers instruction for Pre-Degree course.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, SHERTALLAI

The Michael's College situated 3 miles south of Shertallai town is under the management of the Latin Bishop of Alleppey. Established in 1967 it provides instruction for the Pre-Degree Course. In 1967-68 the College had 387 students and 18 teachers.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

The claims of technical education have received attention at the hands of the Government since the thirties. It is seen that a School of Commerce was functioning at Alleppey in 1933 and that it prepared students for the Lower and Higher Examinations of the Madras Government in Typewriting, Shorthand, Book-keeping, Commercial Geography, and the Theory and Practice of Commerce. Technical education has made considerable progress in the District in recent years as a result of the keen interest taken by the Government and private agencies. The most important schools for technical education in the Alleppey District are the N.S.S. Polytechnic, Pantalam, the Carmel Polytechnic, Alleppey, the Junior Technical Schools at Shertallal and Krishnapuram, the Mar Baselius Industrial Training Institute, Mavelikara, the Industrial Training Institute, Chengannur and the Tailoring Trade Schools at Haripad and Turavur.

N.S.S. POLYTECHNIC, PANTALAM

The N. S. S. Polytechnic, Pantalam, was started by the Nair Service Society in 1958. It was the first technical institution of its kind to be started by this organisation which had been engaged in educational activities for over five decades. The site of the Polytechnic is at Perumpulickal, about three miles south-east of Pantalam. The institution provides instruction for the three year Diploma Course in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. In 1967-68 there were 488 students on the rolls of the Polytechnic and 40 members on its teaching staff. The library had 2824 volumes. There is a hostel attached to the Polytechnic which provides accommodation to 117 students. The Polytechnic gets grant-in-aid from the Government.

THE CARMEL POLYTECHNIC, ALLEPPEY

The Carmel Polytechnic, Alleppey, was started in 1958. Located at Punnappra, 5 miles south of Alleppey town, this institution is managed by the St. Joseph's Province of the Carmelite Congregation of Kerala. It provides instruction for the 3 year Diploma Courses in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. In 1967-68 there were 482 students and 48 teachers in the Polytechnic. The Library of the institution had 1, 653 volumes. The hostel attached to the Polytechnic provided accommodation for 175 students.

JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL, SHERTALLAI

The Junior Technical School, Shertallai was started in 1960. It is located at the 12th mile on National Highway 47 in the southern end of the Shertallai Municipality. The course of studies in the Junior Technical School is intended to divert pupils from a purely academic type of education to productive occupations of Humanities, General Science, Engineering subjects and different trades. The course of study offered extends to three years and the sanctioned intake of the school is 60. The medium of instruction for the course is Malayalam in the initial stages but it is replaced by English by the time the students reach the final year. Those who pass out of the school are awarded the Junior Technical School Leaving Certificate. In 1967-68 there were 132 students and 22 teachers in the school. There was a small library which consisted of 447 books. The institution is under the administrative control of the Director of Technical Education.

JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL, KRISHNAPURAM

The Junior Technical School, Krishnapuram, was started in 1962. The particulars of the course of studies offered here are the same as those given in the earlier section. The annual intake of the school is 60. In 1967-68 there were 170 students and 26 teachers in the school. The library of the institution had 218 volumes. This school is also under the direct control of the Director of Technical Education.

MAR BASELIUS INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, MAVELIKARA

The Mar Baselius Industrial Training Institute, Mavelikara which is affiliated to the National Council for Training in Vocational Trades was started in 1961. It is administered by a Manager functioning under the directions of the Governing Board which is elected every three years by the general body meeting of the St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Mavelikara. The institution provides instruction in the following course:-

1. Draughtsman-Civil, 2. Draughtsman-Mechanical
3. Electrician and 4. Fitter. In 1967-68 there were 159 students on the rolls of the institute and 15 members on the teaching staff.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, CHENGANNUR

The Industrial Training Institute, Chengannur started functioning in 1962. It is under the administrative control of the Director

of Training, Kerala State. The Institute provides an eighteen months training in the following trades :-

1. Blacksmith 2. Carpenter 3. Electrician 4. Fitter
5. Moulder 6. Machinist 7. Sheet Metal Worker 8. Turner
9. Welder and 10. Wireman. In 1967-68 there were 508 students and 54 teachers in the institute. The library had 207 volumes. The institute provides free hostel accommodation for 50% of the total number of trainees.

TAILORING TRADE SCHOOLS TURAVUR AND HARIPAD

The Department of Technical Education runs a Tailoring Trade School each at Turavur and Haripad. These institutions offer a one year course in Tailoring and Garment-making. The sanctioned annual intake of each school is 12 students. Each school has two instructors on its staff.

GRANT-IN-AID TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

There are a few grant-in-aid technical schools in this District. The most important of them are the Onattukara Weaving School, Mavelikara, Kattuvellile Smithy School, Mavelikara, St. Mary's Weaving and Spinning School, Kallapara (Tiruvalla Taluk), Padmodayam Weaving School, Piralasseru (Chengannur Taluk), Bhazavathi Vilasom Weaving School, Pattattanakkad (Shertalla Taluk), P.R.T.S. Weaving School, Eraviperur (Tiruvalla Taluk) and Bharmapradayili Weaving School, Mavelikara. These schools give training to local students in arts like spinning, weaving, tailoring, book-keeping, smithy etc. and they received grant-in-aid ranging from Rs.40 to Rs.80 per mensem from the Government. Each of the schools admits more than a dozen students, the actual number varying according to the facilities available. The Onattukara Weaving School established in 1913 provides facilities for 30 students to learn spinning and weaving. This institution presents candidates for the Kerala Government Technical Examinations in Weaving and Spinning. The P. & D. S. Weaving School, Eraviperur, also provides facilities for learning spinning and weaving to about 30 students. While ordinary students have to take only a two year course, a special four years course is offered to deaf and dumb students. In most of the institutions the course of studies ranges from one year to two years.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

There are four Colleges for Professional and Technical Education in Alleppey District. These are the M. S. Training College

Pantalam, the Titus II Teacher's Training College, Tiruvalla, the Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara and the Tirumala Devaswom Medical College, Alleppey. Brief accounts of these institutions are given below :-

N.S.S. TRAINING COLLEGE, PANTALAM

The N. S. S. Training College, Pantalam was founded in 1957. It is managed by the Nair Service Society. In 1967-68 there were 120 students on the rolls and 9 members on its teaching staff. The institution offers instruction for the B.Ed. Degree course of the Kerala University. The College library contains 2,095 volumes. There are no hostels attached to the college.

TITUS II TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE, TIRUVALLA

The Titus II Teachers' Training College, Tiruvalla which was started in 1957 is under the management of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar. It offers instruction for the B.Ed. Degree course of the Kerala University. In 1967-68 there were 121 students and 8 teachers in the college. The college library had 3,750 volumes. The college had no hostels attached to it.

PEET MEMORIAL TRAINING COLLEGE, MAVELIKARA

The Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara, which was established in 1960 is owned by the Diocese of Central Travancore of the Church of South India. It offers instruction for the B.Ed. Degree Course of the Kerala University. In 1967-68 there were 120 students and 7 teachers in the college. The college library had 2,141 volumes. There is a hostel attached to the college which provides accommodation for 29 inmates.

TIRUMALA DEVASWAM MEDICAL COLLEGE, ALLEPPEY

The Tirumala Devaswam Medical College, Alleppey, started functioning in 1963. It was till recently managed by the Alleppey Tirumala Devaswam which belongs to the Gowda Saraswath Brahmin Community and was the only Medical College run by a private agency in Kerala State. But in 1967 the management of the College was temporarily taken over by the Government for a period of five years. The college is located at a place called Vandanam, five miles to the south from the town of Alleppey. It offers instruction for the M.B.B.S. Degree course of the Kerala University. In 1967-68 there were 250 students and 52 teachers in the college. The college library had a collection of 1400 volumes. There are separate hostels for men and women and they provide accommodation for 180 and 40 inmates respectively,

SCHOOLS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF FINE ARTS

There is a school for painting and another for teaching Kathakali in this District. The school of painting is the Ravi Varma School of Painting, Mavelikara and the school for the teaching of Kathakali is the Samastha Kerala Kathakali Vidyalayam located at Kirikad near Kayamkulam. Brief accounts of these institutions are given below

RAVI VARMA SCHOOL OF PAINTING, MAVELIKARA

The Ravi Varma School of Painting, Mavelikara, was established in February 1915. It is named after the great artist Raja Ravi Varma. Artist Rama Varma Valia Raja of Mavelikara, the son of Raja Ravi Varma, was for long the Principal of this institution. The school was taken over by the Government of Kerala with effect from October 10, 1956 and it is at present under the control of the Director of Technical Education. The Superintendent, School of Arts, Trivandrum, is the immediate controlling officer. It has two sections, viz., (1) Painting and 2) Modelling and Sculpture. The course of studies consists of three stages, viz., (1) a two year course for Certificate (2) an additional two years' course for Diploma and 3) a Post-Diploma course for one year. Admission of pupils to the institution is made on the basis of the results obtained in an aptitude test. The strength of the Painting Section in the school is 14 for each year and that in the Modelling and Sculpture section 10. In 1965-66 there were 36 students and 6 teachers in this school.

SAMASTHA KERALA KATHAKALI VIDYALAYAM, KIRIKAD

This institution which has been set up for the teaching of Kathakali is located at Kandallur village, Kirikad, about five miles from Kayamkulam. It has grown out of the Gurukula Vidyalayam which was established in 1946 in his own *Illam* by Mankulam Vishnu Nambuthiri, the famous Kathakali actor and was later renamed Kala Mandiram, but it assumed its present name only on August 8, 1961. It is worth mentioning that the locality is associated with Kathakali from very early days. There was a famous *Kathakali Yogam* at nearby Thoppil about 120 years ago. Kathakali artists of repute such as Mathur Kunjan Pillai, Kirikad Kochuvelu Pillai, Takazhi Kochu Nilakanta Pillai, Chennithala Kochu Pillai etc., were associated with this Yogam. The present Vidyalaya seeks to keep up the tradition of the Yogam which is now defunct. Mankulam Vishnu Nambuthiri continues to be the Principal of the

Vidyalaya. In 1965 it had 18 students and 8 teachers. A well-furnished theatre is attached to the Vidyalaya and at least there is one Kathakali performance on the first Saturday of every month.

In addition to the above there are several minor institutions run by Art Associations or Kala Samithis. A few of such institutions may be mentioned here. The Kerala Kalamandalam, Kallikad, established in 1933 is an institution where training is given in *Kuthukali*, *Rathamanaliam*, *Kathaprasangam* etc. Another institution in the field is the Marthar Kunjan Panikkar Smaraka Kathakali Vidhalayam, Nedumudi. Established in 1956 this institution gives training to young men in such arts as *Kuthukali*, *Velukali* etc. The Prakash Kalakshetram Kayamkulam, established in 1953 teaches Dancing and Music to local children. The Karnataka Sangeetha Sree Saraswathi Gananiyam (Kannur Taluk) which was established in 1957 gives instruction in Music, *Mridangam*, Dance etc. Similarly the Sree Vakeeswari Lalithakali Nilayam, Mavelikara is also an institution where children are given instruction in Music (Vocal and instrumental), *Harikatha*, *Kathaprasangam*, Dance, etc. The Young Men's Musical Association, Paravur runs a school for the teaching of dance and music (vocal and instrumental). The Akhila Kerala Panchavadya Kalamandalam, Nedumudi, established in 1955 provides instruction to children in *Panchavadyam*, *Chendamelam* and such other temple arts. Almost all the institutions mentioned above get grants-in-aid from the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. The Kerala People's Arts Club, Kayamkulam, popularly known as K. P. A. C. has played a vital role in the dramatic field in Kerala.

ORIENTAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

There are a few Sanskrit Schools in this District. Some of them are High Schools and others Upper Primary Schools. The High Schools are Changanangalam Sanskrit High School, Alleppey, the S.M. Sanskrit High School, Tiruvalla and the N.S.S. Sanskrit High School, Velichapad. The Upper Primary Schools are the Mannarsala Sanskrit Upper Primary School, Alleppey, the Mutunkulam Sanskrit Upper Primary School, Valikulundu. In the Sanskrit Schools apart from the other subject Sanskrit is taught as a compulsory language. They are for all practical purposes included among schools for general education.

EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED

The School for the Deaf and Dumb Children (Deaf and Dumb School), Tiruvalla, owned by the Church Mission Society, is one of the most important institutions for the education of the handicapped.

in the State. It was started in 1935 with five children at Pallam and later shifted to Tiruvalla. The institution stands on a three acre plot of land donated by the Central Travancore Diocese of South India. It possesses a main school building with an assembly hall and class rooms, a two storeyed block used as Boys' Dormitory and Weaving School, another two storeyed building used as Girls Hostel with rooms for resident teacher, kitchen block consisting of kitchen store room, dining hall and a sick block of two rooms with bath room attached. The school is recognised by the Government of Kerala and has 8 Standard Children are also taught such useful crafts as mat making, basket making, coir work, paper flowers making, tailoring etc. In 1964-65 there were 145 pupils (80 boys and 65 girls) and 21 teachers (9 men and 12 women) on its staff. All the children in the school reside in the Boarding House. The Deaf and Dumb School, Tiruvalla has been carrying on useful work in imparting elementary education to the deaf children of Kerala ever since its inception.

LITERARY SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL PERIODICALS

The Alleppey District is not noted for many literary, scientific and cultural periodicals of distinction. There are a few which deserve mention. According to the Registrar of Newspapers for India, the Kerala Sree, a Malayalam monthly devoted to Art which is published from Alleppey has the largest circulation among the art journals published in the country. Started in 1957 it had a circulation of 4,500 copies. The Chethu Thozhilali, another Malayalam monthly published from Alleppey devoted to labour and it claimed a circulation of 10,541 copies. It is a feature of this District that a number of magazines devoted to Religion and Philosophy were being published by Christian Missions from such centres as Alleppey, Chengannur, Mavelikara etc. The available information on the most important of such periodicals is given below.

Name of Publication	Date and Place of Publication	Circulation
Catholic Life	1931, Alleppey	1,500
Christhu Rajan	1954, Tiruvalla	12,144
Malankara Sabha Tharaka	Tiruvalla	2,775
Navajeevodayam	1951, Tiruvalla	4,907
Athmathodini	1922, Chengannur	600

Gospel Echoes	1960, Chengannur	91
Grihadeepam	1962, Tiruvalla	3,813
Orthodox Youth	1958, Mavelikara	850
Suveseshakan	1953, Chengannur	2,364
Yuvamithram	1960, Chengannur	1,000
Apostolica Viswasam	1960, Cheppad	1,000
Uhyana Nilayam	1960, Tiruvalla	1,953

LIBRARIES

The library movement in the Alleppey District had its origin in the early decades of this century. It is seen that in 1917-18 a few libraries and reading rooms in the District were in receipt of grants from the Government. The Assistant Inspectors of English Schools had been authorised to inspect libraries for the purpose of giving grants. In 1935-36 the erstwhile Travancore Government opened Rural Libraries attached to Departmental Primary Schools in some select centres and the Headmasters of Schools concerned were appointed as Honorary Librarians. In the management of the libraries they were assisted by local committees which consisted of three members each. The Headmasters paid Rs. 3 each for library work. Each library was provided with a set of 200 books and a daily newspaper and a magazine.

The Alleppey District has played a very important part in the progress of library movement in Kerala on democratic lines. Since the early years of this century public libraries and reading rooms sprang up in important centres of the District as a result of popular initiative. Among such libraries may be mentioned the Vijnanavikasini Vayanasala, Muttam, Haripad (1904), Gnanapradayani Library, Kandiur (1916), Sree Moolarajavijayam Library, Kirikad (1917), Sankaravilasom Grandhasala, Mundankavu, Chengannur (1910), G.K.P. Smarakam Gramodharana Vayanasala, Champakulam (1910), Sree Chithira Tirunal Public Library, Kuthathode, Shertallal (1920), the Kerala Varma Memorial Central Library, Haripad (1925), Evur Desabandhu Library, Evur (1926) etc. The P.K. Memorial Library and Reading Room, Ambalapuzha and Anandapradayini Library, Alleppey which are among

1. The figures of circulation given here are taken from the Report of the Register of Newspapers (1964)

the first rate libraries of this District started functioning in 1937. It is interesting to note in this connection that the Travancore Grandhasala Sangham, the progenitor of the present day Kerala Grandhasala Sangham, was born at the Libraries Conference held at Ambalapuzha in 1946 under the auspices of the local P. K. Memorial Library and Reading Room. It was with its headquarters at the P.K. Memorial Library that the Travancore Grandhasala Sangham functioned for some time in the early stages.

All the libraries in the District are at present affiliated to the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham. In 1966-67 the total number of libraries working under the control and supervision of the Sangham in this District came to 350. The relevant details regarding the working of these libraries are given below.

Number of libraries		350
Number of books		833, 924
Value of books	Rs.	10, 21, 473
Members		65,324
Annual Income	Rs.	2, 02, 409
Government Grant.	Rs.	70, 346
Other grants.	Rs.	20, 628
Value of building and land	Rs.	6, 27, 302

Out of the 350 libraries in this District five have been recognised as A class libraries by the Kerala Grandhasala Sangham. They are the Evur Desabandhu Library, Evur, the Kerala Varma Memorial Central Library, Haripur, the P. K. Memorial Library and Reading Room, Ambalapuzha, Anandapradayini Library, Alleppey and the Municipal Library, Shertallai. Such particulars as the date of establishment, the total number of volumes, number of members etc. in regard to these libraries as given in the *Kerala Grandhasala Directory* (1964) are reproduced below:-

Name of Library	Date of estab- lishment	Number of Volumes	Value of books Rs.	Number of members	Annual income Rs.	Govern- ment grant Rs.	Other grants Rs.	Value of build- ing and land
1 Evur Desabandhu Library, Evur	1925	11,533	15,477.42	605	3,411.53	1,000	100	7,500
2 Kerala Varma Memorial Central Library, Haripad	1928	7,780	11,675.99	787	1,661.39	600	75	10,500
3 P. K. Memorial Library and Reading Room, Ambalapuzha	1937	10,517	13,932.78	2,232	3,455.60	1,000	50	12,500
5 Anandapradayini Library, Alleppey	1937	10,100	15,579.93	903	4,118.80	1,000	240	15,000
6 Municipal Library, Shertallai	1949	8,320	12,149.65	479	1,226.38	550	Nil	Located in the Municipal Building.

MUSEUMS, BOTANICAL GARDENS ETC.

The Archaeology Department, Kerala State, maintains a Museum in this District. The Krishnapuram Palace, situated about 67 miles north of Trivandrum, has been developed in such a way as to house a local Museum where sculptures and mural paintings collected from nearby localities may be exhibited. The Palace itself is noted for its peculiar styles of Kerala architecture and it contains the Mural Painting 'Gajendra Moksha' which is by far the largest single panel discovered in Kerala. The museum has been organised in the Palace primarily with a view to stimulating public interest in this ancient historical monument. The first floor is devoted to the display of murals from the Vadakkunathan and Tiruvanchikulam temples and churches from Trichur and other Districts and the ground floor to the exhibition of sculptures, plaster models, numismatics, stone age implements, bronzes and potsherds of the megalithic culture etc. Special show cases have been designed for the display of stone implements of the Early, Middle and late Stone Age man with suitable dioramic backgrounds and of coins collected from Calicut, Ernakulam and other centres in the State. The Museum is at present only in its infancy, but with new additions it is likely to grow in stature in the years to come. It may be mentioned that the Archaeology Department proposes to exhibit here select sculptures indicating the evolution of Indian art through the ages side by side with those representing Kerala art. The Palace building has recently been electrified and the various colour schemes and lighting are adopted to follow the principle of variation and contrast in museum display. A fountain with canopied benches is also provided in front of the Palace for the convenience of tourists. An extensive fruit and flower garden has been raised in and around the monument.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

EARLY HISTORY

The Ayurvedic system of medical treatment prevailed in the Alleppey District during the period prior to the introduction of the western allopathic system in the 19th century. The District has, in fact, a long tradition in the field of Ayurved, a Itti Achuthan, the Ayurvedic physician who collaborated with the Carmelite Father Mathaeus in the 17th century in the compilation of the *Hortus Malabaricus*, the famous treatise on medicinal plants, belonged to Shertallai in this District. The strong hold of the Ayurvedic system in the ancient period is also testified to by the age long custom under which a special decoction is served to mental patients in the Tiruvizha temple and a special oil to ailing patients in the Takazhi temple. The Ayurvedic system continued to enjoy the patronage of the rulers of Travancore even after the introduction of Allopathy and it is popular among large sections of people even to day.

Though the western system of medical treatment was introduced in Travancore during the reign of Rani Gouri Lakshmi Bai (1810-15), the hospital at Alleppey was established only in 1042 K E (1866-67) A.D. In the early days only very poor people with incurable diseases came in as in-patients in the hospital. Naturally the death-rate among in-patients was high and this created among the people a feeling of antipathy towards the western medical system. The Government took a series of steps to create public confidence in the system. In 1879-80 a Royal Proclamation was issued in Travancore making vaccination compulsory for all Government servants, pupils in schools, lawyers, persons seeking medical help from hospitals etc. A system of grant-in-aid to private allopathic medical practitioners was also begun during the reign of Sri Mulam Thirunal (1883-1924). Training classes in compounding and first aid were started at Alleppey in 1911-12 and an Ambulance class at Haripad in 1915-16. In 1921-22 the Special Investigation Officer attached to the Medical Department conducted investigations into elephantiasis which was rampant in a chronic form in Shertallai. In view of the high incidence of leprosy in Central Travancore effective measures were taken by the Government to detect early cases and give suitable treatment. Kayamkulam in this District was one

one of the three centres chosen for the introduction of injection for treatment for Leprosy. In 1984 Noorana was chosen as the site for a Leper Colony which has since grown into a full-fledged Sanatorium. Provision was also made for suitable dispensary treatment for tuberculosis in the hospital at Alleppey. A liberal policy was thus pursued by the Government with a view to making medical aid available to all classes of people.

VITAL STATISTICS

The registration of vital events is compulsory throughout the District. In the rural parts, this is ensured under the provisions of the Travancore-Cochin Registration of Births and Deaths Act (1953) and the rules framed thereunder and in the municipal areas under the provisions of the Kerala Municipalities Act (1960). While the Health Assistants of the Department of Health Services attend to the work of registration, the Department of Statistics is the Central agency for compilation of vital statistics. A statement of births, deaths and infant deaths for each of the years from 1954 is given below:—

Vital Statistics — 1959-64							
		Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1959	Total	44,327	25.20	11,184	6.36	1,311	22.58
	Rural	35,075	23.27	9,345	5.20	1,064	30.33
	Urban	9,252	36.86	1,339	7.33	247	26.70
1960	Total	39,504	29.06	11,257	6.29	1,001	25.54
	Rural	31,627	20.60	9,248	6.12	811	25.64
	Urban	7,877	30.77	2,009	7.85	198	25.14
1961	Total	43,866	24.04	12,098	6.62	1,216	27.72
	Rural	35,584	22.80	10,198	6.53	1,000	28.02
	Urban	8,182	31.47	1,800	6.92	216	26.40
1962	Total	42,215	22.64	11,503	6.71	1,111	26.32
	Rural	33,712	21.07	9,528	6.00	891	26.52
	Urban	8,503	32.09	1,975	7.45	217	25.32
1963	Total	42,515	22.33	11,064	5.80	886	20.84
	Rural	32,673	19.98	9,336	5.71	729	22.31
	Urban	9,842	36.77	1,728	6.37	157	15.92
1964	Total	44,558	22.85	11,934	6.12	948	21.28
	Rural	34,384	20.56	9,838	5.88	776	22.57
	Urban	10,714	36.67	2,097	7.56	172	16.91

The registration of vital statistics is defective in this District, as elsewhere in the State, the number of vital events registered officially being much below the actual figures. It is a significant feature of vital statistics that the months of May and June stand out conspicuous for births and July and August for deaths. A perusal of the data on vital statistics would also show a decrease in the rates of infant deaths in recent years. This may be attributed to the provision of improved medical facilities, better sanitation, maternity and child health activities, the small-pox eradication programme etc.

DISEASES

The following statement shows the number of attacks and deaths therefrom in respect of some of the chief diseases in the Hospitals of the District for each of the years from 1963-64 to 1966-67.

Name of Disease	19-63-64		1964-65		1965-66		1966-67	
	Attack	Deaths	Attack	Deaths	Attack	Deaths	Attack	Deaths
1 Typhoid	1345	10	4028	18	2346	15	3487	30
2 Dysthery in all forms	9846	23	35819	60	48532	36	57676	55
3 Pulmonary T B	23184	28	13203	35	26303	60	25262	51
4 Other T B	1489	8	5821	21	6120	13	8229	20
5 Influenza	23416	2	52314	4	12478	1	79361	3
6 Injuries	8348	24	10219	50	9519	14	15319	44
7 Whooping cough	6116	...	4823	3	5403	...	9807	2
8 Rabies	...	...	10	...	14	...	209	...
9 Diphtheria	10	...	20	1	10	2	47	7
10 Cancer	3819	20	1819	12	2514	15	2486	24

Some of the other diseases common to the District are the following.—1) Chicken pox, 2) Measles, 3) Filariasis, 4) Infectious hepatitis, 5) Other diseases due to helminthus, 6) Other diseases of the digestive system, 7) Complications of pregnancy, child birth etc. 8) Rheumatic fever, 9) Gastroenteritis, 10) Ulcer, 11) Respiratory diseases, 12) Bronchitis, 13) Inflammatory disease of the eye, 14) Avitaminosis and other deficiency diseases and 15) Anaemia. The most important of the diseases are dealt with separately.

SMALL POX

The major item of work of the P. H. staff, especially Health Inspectors and Health Assistants, is the control of communicable diseases, particularly Small pox. Small pox has existed all along in a sporadic form in all the Taluks. From the records available it is seen that it was prevailing in an epidemic form in Alleppey town during the year 1122 K. B. (1946-47). There were 100 attacks and 67 deaths. The following table gives an idea of the attacks and deaths in different Taluks in certain years.

	Shertallai		Ambala puzha		Karthika pally		Mavelikara		Tiruvalla	
	Atta- cks	Dea- ths	Atta- cks	Dea- ths	Atta- cks	Dea- ths	Atta- cks	Dea- ths	Atta- cks	Dea- ths
1944-45	8	2	14	7	17	7	22	16	5	1
1945-46	9	2	45	29	11	6	18	14	15	7
1946-47	...	...	100	67	...	...	...	...	...	...
1951-52	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
1952-53	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	...
1953-54	40	9	3	1	...	...	4	1	2	1
1954-55	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...

It may be noted from the above statement that the attacks and deaths from small pox had been on the decrease as years advanced, but the disease was far from eradicated as the following figures of the incidence of small pox in the District in later years would show:-

Year	No. of attacks.	No. of Deaths
1957-58	61	24
1958-59	87	29
1959-60	183	77
1960-61	5	...
1961-62	5	...
1962-63	7	3
1963-64	13	3

It may be seen that since 1960-61 the incidence of small-pox has been practically negligible. This was due to the success of small pox vaccination and the impact of the health education programme on the public. The Taluk wise particulars of staff employed for vaccination work in the District in 1964-65 are given below:-

Shertallai Taluk	17 Health Assistants
Ambalapuzha	4 "
Karthikapally	14 "
Mavelikara	13 "
Tiruvalla	12 "
Chengannur	12 "
Kuttanad	8 "
Reserve	6 "
Total	86 "

In the Municipalities vaccination work is conducted by the Municipal staff. Small pox vaccination is compulsory throughout the District. With a view to eradicating small pox completely from the State, the National small pox Eradication Programme was launched by Government in the State under the control of an Assistant Director of Health Services. The above programme was implemented in Alleppey District from January 1, 1964 to August 31, 1964. The total number of vaccinations performed during the period are given below:-

Primary	1,65,594
Re	18,70,945
Total	15,36,539

A coverage of 85% of the total population of the District was achieved in the area.

FILARIASIS

Alleppey is one of the most highly filarial Districts in the State. Out of the 6 Taluks, Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Karthikapally are highly filarial. The western portions of Mavelikara and Kuttanad Taluks are moderately filarial. Alleppey, Shertallai, Kayamkulam and Ambalapuzha towns are the highly filarial towns in this District. The endemicity is highest in Shertallai and Ambalapuzha Taluks. The average endemicity rate for Shertallai Taluk was 48.1%, infection rate 29% and disease rate 23% in 1931-32. Vavalar West village had 64% endemicity rate, 32.7% infection rate and 39.7% disease rate- the highest in Kerala. Ambalapuzha Taluk had an endemicity of 32%, infection rate of 19.7% and disease rate of 14.1%.¹

1 infection rate is the number of persons with microfilaria in blood out of 100 examined. Disease rate is the number of persons having infection in blood or disease symptoms of both out of 100 examined.

FILIARIASIS SURVEY

The first record of filariasis in Shertallai was by Dr. Waring, Durbar physician in Travancore in 1855. He recorded that 4 per cent of the population of Shertallai Taluk had elephantiasis. Later Dr. Subramoni, Iyer a Census Commissioner in 1901, reported that 3.7% of persons in Shertallai Taluk had filariasis. This has reference to elephantiasis only as blood survey was not carried out in 1901. It was from 1932-34 that Dr. M.O.T. Iyengar carried out a detailed survey of Alleppey District. It was discovered during this survey that there were two types of filarial infection in Alleppey. The infection in Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Karthikapally was the Malayi type (*Brugia malayi*) of filariasis common in Malaya and East Indies. The transmission of filarial infection in Shertallai is by *Mansonioides* mosquitoes which are very common in this District. The presence of pislia plants and decaying organic matter in water account for the development of *Mansonioides* mosquitoes. The other type of filarial infection common in India, the Bancrofti type (*Wuchereria bancrofti*) was found to occur only in the central parts of Alleppey town in this District. The vector transmitting this type of filariasis is *Culex fatigans*, which breeds in gutters, cess pools, manure pits, septic tanks and other dirty water collections.

The following species of mosquitoes were recorded from Alleppey District by Dr. M. O. T. Iyengar.

(A) Anophelines

- A. *Hydcanus-var-nigerrimus*
- A. *barbirostris*
- A. *vagus*
- A. *Subpictus*
- A. *varuna*
- A. *jayaporiensis var candidensis*
- A. *jemesi*
- A. *philippinensis*
- A. *tessallatus*

(B) Culicines

- Culex fatigans*
- C. *vishnui*
- C. *gelidus*
- C. *sitiens*
- C. *tritocniorhynchus*
- C. *bitoeninhynchus*
- C. *palidothorax*

Armigeres obturbans
Lutzia fuscans
Mansonioides annulifera
Mansonioides indiana
Aedes albopictus
Aedemomyia venustipes
Ficalbia chamberlani
Ficalbia hybrida
Ficalbia minima

It is worth recording that the adult worm *Brugia Malayi* was discovered for the first time in 1940 at Shertallai by Dr. S. S. Rao of the School of Tropical Medicine and Dr. P. A. Maplestone.

Further filaria surveys were carried out in Alleppey District from 1956 to 1960 under the National Filaria Control Programme. A total of 47,025 persons were examined during night surveys. The results of the survey were as follows:—

Filaria Survey (NFCEP) 1956—60

Area	No. examined	No. with microfilaria in blood.	No. with Elephantiasis
1 Shertallai taluk	21,650	4,434	3,284
2 Ambalapuzha taluk	6,045	836	189
3 Alleppey Municipal town	8,934	1,520	762
4 Kayamkulam Municipal town	2,925	107	235
5 Mavelikara Municipal town	1,372	7	10
6 Mavelikara Taluk	6,099	37	93
Total	47,025	6,941	4,553

The recent surveys were conducted about 25 years after the original surveys by Dr. M. O. T. Iyengar. It was observed in general that there is a slow reduction in filarial infection and disease in the rural parts of the District. One of the reasons for the fall in filarial infection and disease is the gradual filling up of water collections where *Mansonioides* mosquitoes breed. This followed in the wake of large scale house construction and improvement of land due to increasing population. But there was an increase in urban filariasis.

FILARIOSIS CONTROL

Filariasis control was started in Shertallai in 1933. The method of control of Malayan filariasis was by regular removal of pistia plants from all water collections and this was done in an area of 20

sq. miles in Shertallai Taluk. It was found after four years in an assessment conducted by Dr. Sweet among children below 4 years in the control area that only one per cent had infection, whereas in the uncontrolled area 20% were infested. Filariasis control in Ambalapuzha was started in 1946 and in Haripad in 1950.

The Control of Bancroftian fileriasis in Alleppey was started in 1935. The method of control was by abatement of permanent breeding places of *C. fatigans* with larvicidal oil, destruction of temporarily breeding places, upkeep of drains and attention to and maintenance of cess pools. This was supplemented by piscia clearance for *Mansonioides* control in the peripheral parts of the town. Half the cost was met by the Alleppey Municipality.

Filariasis control under the National Filaria Control Programme (NFCCP) was started in Kayamkulam as part of the Quilon Unit in 1957-58 and in Alleppey town in 1968. The control measure consisted of mass treatment of the entire population in Alleppey town with Hetrazan (83,598 persons took the drug); spraying houses with dieldrin, and treatment of water surfaces with gamma hexane (BHC). After four years of control operations, mass treatment, dieldrin spraying and gammexane anti-larval work by use of crude oil was restarted on the recommendation of the Committee on Filariasis of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

MALARIA

Alleppey District is from endemic Malaria. Nevertheless Malaria surveys were carried out in Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Karthikapally taluks in 1932-33. It is seen that 727 children were examined in Shertallai, 500 in Ambalapuzha and 480 in Karthikapally; but none showed any enlargement of spleen. At the same time sporadic malaria cases were being recorded in the medical institutions of the District. These were imported malaria cases from the then endemic hilly areas of Kerala and from outside. Mosquito surveys did not reveal any anopheline vectors in the District.

Alleppey District was included in the National Malaria Eradication Programme (1958-64). Tiruvalla, Chengannur and Mavelikara Taluks were covered by the Chengannur Hypo-endemic Malaria Unit. Prior to the DDT spray operations, 26,909 children were examined for evidence of malaria enlarged spleen. But not a single enlarged spleen was detected. Similarly 7,045 children were examined for malaria parasites in blood, but all proved negative.

DDT spraying programme was carried out in the District in 1960, 1961 and 1962. Malaria surveillance was carried out in 1961, 1962 and 1963. Persons with fever were examined for malaria parasites by special surveillance staff. Fever cases in hospitals were also examined for parasites. The number of fever cases examined and the results of examination were as follows:-

Year	persons examined	No. positive for malaria	Remarks
1961-62	1,11,736	2	All imported cases
1962-63	1,82,544	14	do
1963-64	2,67,354	9	do

Intensive search for malaria has shown only a few imported cases. No indigenous case of malaria was met with. The Chengannur and Alleppey Malaria Units closed down in April, 1964, and the entire District entered the maintenance phase.

LEPROSY

In view of the relatively higher incidence of Leprosy prevailing here, Alleppey is one of the Districts of Kerala where Leprosy control activities are being carried on vigorously under the auspices of the Government and private agencies. Detailed accounts of the Government Leprosy Sanatorium, Nuranad, and the Green Gardens, Shertallai, private Leprosy Hospital, given elsewhere would give the reader some idea of work that is being done in the field of Leprosy control at the official and non official levels. Apart from the work done in these institutions, Leprosy control in this District has received special attention in the Five Year Plans also. An important event occurred during the First Five Year Plan period when a Leprosy Control Unit was set up at Mararikulam (Shertallai Taluk) in February, 1954, by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Wardha. It functioned in such a way as to attract the attention of the authorities of the Health Services Department of the State. While the prestige of the Foundation as a result of its association with the name of Gandhiji exerted influence on the minds of the people in the beginning, its subsequent working also lent support to the view that it was doing substantial work in the field of Leprosy Control in an area known to be very endemic for leprosy in the State and convinced the authorities of what could be done, if the work was undertaken on a planned basis. During the second Plan Dr. Wardekar, the then Secretary of the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, visited the State on the invitation of the State Government and submitted a scheme for the control of leprosy in the State. The scheme which

was accepted by the Government envisaged, among other things the establishment of S. E. T. Centres in endemic areas by Government and private agencies. There are 25 S. E. T. (Survey, Education & Treatment) Centres in this District set up under the scheme for leprosy control. A complete list of Centres with details of the work done by them is given at Appendix I. Medical workers specially trained at the Mararikulam Centre are posted to the S. E. T. Centres. In addition, a programme of educating the public on the various aspects of the Leprosy with a view to achieving public co-operation has also been launched. The officers in charge of the S. E. T. Centres have also been instructed to take the initiative by forming local Leprosy Welfare Committees. Such Committees, formed in certain Centres, are already doing a good job.

CHOLERA

Cholera breaks out in an epidemic form in this District in certain years. The coastal areas of Alleppey are particularly endemic to the disease. The worst outbreak of Cholera in Alleppey District took place in 1965. The epidemic commenced in the coastal areas of Purakked village in the third week of January and from here it spread to other parts of the District. The first occurrence of Cholera was recorded on January 18, 1965. In the wake of the spread of the disease most of the places in the Alleppey District were affected. The areas which were mainly affected were Ambalapuzha Block, Haripad Block, Champakulam Block, Veliyanad Block, Kanjikuzhi Block, Muthukulam Block, Koipuram Block, Thycattussery Block, Pulikeezh Bharanikavu Block, Pattanakad Block, Mavelikara Block and Aryad Block and Alleppey Municipality. On the whole there were 1672 cases of attack and 223 deaths therefrom in 1965. The Health Services Department adopted the necessary curative and preventive measures to control the spread of the epidemic. Medical Officers, Nurses, Midwives etc. were promptly posted to places where there were vacancies and sufficient stock of essential medicines like Glucose Saline, Sulphanamide, Chlorostrep etc. were supplied. In all hospitals and health centres a ward was specially set apart for admission of suspected cholera cases. The other cases were admitted only on a restricted scale. Mass inoculation was resorted to in the affected areas. Vaccine was purchased from outside agencies since the stock in the Public Health Laboratory, Trivandrum and the daily production could not meet the situation. Chlorination of water sources and sanitation of the localities were also attended to. In this District alone 865,497 inoculations were conducted till October 1965,

ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP OF THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The District Medical officer of Health, Alleppey, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Health Services Department at the District level. He is in charge of both the Medical and Public Health wings, but is assisted by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health in all matters pertaining particularly to Public Health. The Assistant District Medical Officer in his turn is assisted by a Public Health Supervisor who is a senior Health Inspector. There is also a District Family Planning Medical Officer under the District Medical Officer of Health since April 1, 1964 and he is in charge of the Family Planning, Malaria Control works and M. C. H. activities.

In this District there are 7 Health Inspectors (one in each Taluk) and 80 Health Assistants (one in each group) with 6 Health Assistants as reserve to look after the public health activities. Where there are Health Units and Centres the Medical Officers and Health Inspectors of those institutions attend to public health activities within their jurisdiction. The Health Assistant is the Registrar of Birth and Deaths for his area, and the Taluk Health Inspector the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Taluk. The Health Inspectors of Health Units and Centres function as Extension Officers of Health in Community Development Blocks. All categories of Health Inspectors act as Food Inspectors within their jurisdiction. The Maternity and Child Health activities are attended to by Midwives under the supervision of a District Public Health Nurse. There are 93 Rural Midwifery Centres in the District.

The activities of the Department of Health Services on the public health side include registration of births and deaths, control of communicable diseases, vaccination, administration of health units and health centres, maternity and child welfare, prevention of food adulteration, health propaganda, distribution of milk and multi-vitamin tablets, rural sanitation, enforcement of public health legislation, malaria and filariasis control, B. C. G. vaccination campaign, nutrition and family planning. The activities on the medical side include general treatment through hospitals and Dispensaries and special treatment through (1) Leprosy Hospital, (2) Tuberculosis Clinics and (3) Maternity wards. The following chart will give an idea of the organisational set up of the Health Services Department in the District.

District Medical Officer

Assistant District Medical
Officer of Health

District Family Planning
Medical Officer

Medical Institutions

Public Health Institutions

General Special

Healthcentres /Units Fila

District Hospital, W & C, T. B Clinics riasis Control Units

Hospital other Hospitals and Dispensaries,

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

In 1963-64 there were forty-four medical institutions in this District including Hospitals, Dispensaries, Health Centres, etc. They had a total bed strength of 1,109. This is exclusive of the 750 beds provided for Leprosy patients in the Nuranad Leprosy Sanatorium. Brief accounts of the most important institutions are given below --

DISTRICT HOSPITAL, ALLEPPEY

Established in 1866-67 and housed in a building near the beach this hospital was shifted on April 1, 1951 to the palace building situated in the heart of Alleppey town. The common people call it "Kottaram Asupatti". The hospital is under the charge of a Superintendent who is the District Medical Officer of Health, Alleppey. It has a T. B. Clinic, a Dental Clinic, a V. D. Clinic, an Ophthalmic Unit, and an E. N. T. Section functioning under the control of specialists. An obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, a Paediatric Unit and a X-ray Unit are also functioning. There is a Blood Bank attached to the Hospital. There are two laboratories one attached to the T. B. Clinic and other attached to the general ward. There were 179 beds as on March 1, 1964. Recently a T. B. Isolation Ward with 52 beds has been opened. A 200 bed building with provision of teaching facilities for the students of the Tirumala Devaswom Medical College Alleppey is under construction. A total number of 9,027 in-patients and 150,063 out-patients were treated in the Hospital during 1963-64. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 772.74. A total number of 1,929 operations were conducted of which 481 were major and 1,448 minor. 93 operations were family planning operations. A three months training course

for emergency nursing aids was started in the hospital from March 1, 1964.

WOMEN & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, ALLEPPEY

Located in a building near the bench Alleppey town, this institution was started on April 1, 1951. It is under the charge of a Civil Surgeon. There are 196 beds for females and 16 beds for children in this institution. A total of 184,687 out-patients and 8,811 in-patients were treated here in 1963-64. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 505.99. 332 major operations and 549 minor operations were conducted in 1963-64. A 200 bed ward is proposed to be constructed for the use of the students of the Thirumala Devaswom Medical College, Alleppey.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, SHERTALLAI

This hospital is situated in Shertallai Municipal area. It has 96 beds, 109,805 out patients and 5,682 in patients were treated during 1963-64. The daily average attendance of out-patients was 675.87. 119 major operations and 877 minor operations were conducted in 1963-64. Common diseases treated were Filariasis, Lymphangitis, Dysentery, Anaemia, Deficiency diseases etc,

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, HARIPAD

Located by the side of the Quilon-Alleppey road in Pallipad Panchayat in Parthikapally Taluk, this hospital was opened in 1935. There are 63 beds, 232,990 out-patients and 5,842 in-patients were treated in 1963-64. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 640. Common diseases treated were Respiratory diseases, Anaemia, Antaminosis, and infection of skin and subcutaneous tissues.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, MAVELIKARA

This hospital is situated on the side of the Alleppey-Changanur road in Mavelikara Municipality town. It has 130 beds. 138,902 out-patients and 6,948 in-patients were treated in 1963-64. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 380.55. The most common diseases treated were Pyrexia, Respiratory diseases and Anaemia.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, KAYAMKULAM

This hospital situated in Kayamkulam Municipal town has 24 beds. The total number of out patients and in-patients treated in 1963-64 were 82,319 respectively. the average daily attendance being 829.55.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, TIRUVALLA

This institution located in Tiruvalla Municipal town has a bed strength of 72. During 1963-64, 56,764 out-patients and 4,869 in-patients were treated. The average daily attendance of out-patients was 823.3. The common diseases treated were Anaemia, Malnutrition, Gastro-intestinal diseases including Dysentery; Pyrexia and Respiratory diseases.

T. B. CLINIC, KARUVVITA

The T. B. Clinic situated in Karuvatta Panchayat, Karthikapally Taluk is under the charge of a T. B. Specialist. A total number of 19,386 T. B. patients were treated here during 1963-64. This institution is intended for the treatment of Tuberculosis.

A table containing details such as the names of Hospitals, Dispensaries, etc. their location, their staff structure (Doctors and nurses etc.) bed strength, special facilities, expenditure for the Hospital for the year 1963-64 is given at Appendix II.

LEPROSY SANATORIUM, NURANAD

In view of the special importance of the Leprosy Sanatorium, Nuranad, a separate account of the same is being given here. A hospital for lepers was functioning at Trivandrum for over half a century. The Government decided to enlarge this institution on more modern lines, and also to have it located within the rapidly growing capital of the State. Consequently, Nuranad in the Tamarakulam Village of Alleppey District was chosen as the site for the Leper Colony and in August 1934 the patients from the Trivandrum Hospital were moved to temporary sheds in the new place. The construction of permanent buildings for the colony was soon started and the work was completed at a cost of about 3½ lakhs of rupees.

The new institution which came to be known as the Leprosy Sanatorium is now housed in a 164 acre campus. It has a bed strength of 750. There are 34 wards for men patients and 14 wards for women. Yet more than 900 in-patients are being treated and cared for in this Sanatorium every day. The Sanatorium has also a hospital ward and an out-patient section for leprosy out-patients. A statement showing the number of in-patients and out-patients treated, average daily attendance etc. in 1963-64 is given below:-

Bed strength	730
In-patients treated	2363
Average daily attendance	929
Average duration of illness	338
Out-patients treated	35258
Average daily new cases	96
Average daily attendance	231
Average out-patient attendance per patient	2.4

The Sanatorium is under the immediate control of a Superintendent who is also Assistant Director of Health Services (Leprosy). There is a competent team of doctors, nurses, etc., in the institution. This includes 4 doctors, 10 Nurses, or Nursing Sisters, 1 Midwife, 1 Laboratory Technician, 1 Physiotherapist, and 22 Attendants, in addition to the usual ministerial and contingent employees. In the early years routine treatment with hydrocarpus oil alone was given to the patients. But with the advent of sulphone drugs, the treatment of leprosy patients has advanced considerably. At Present, there is a Physiotherapy Unit here and the same is of much use to the patients. There is also a Clinical Laboratory for the examination of smears, sputum, blood, urine, motion etc. In addition to ordinary operations of a general nature facilities will be provided in the near future for specialised operation like reconstruction and plastic surgery when the new Operation Theatre is opened. A general out-patient Dispensary is also functioning here and it is of much benefit to the local public.

Unlike the patients of other hospitals, the inmates of this Sanatorium remain here for very long periods and therefore special measures are taken to safeguard their welfare. The patients in the Sanatorium have organised their own Co-operative Society. The Society is unique in the sense that it is run by the patients themselves through an Executive Committee of eleven members elected from among themselves. Almost all patients have come to realise that self-help is the best help and that each one of them should work according to his capacity in the interest of the common good. Everyone of the inmates of Sanatorium except those who are thoroughly incapacitated by the disease, is therefore engaged in some activity or other, e.g., agricultural operations, beedi manufacture, carpentry, mat weaving, basket making, spinning, tailoring, etc. They have cooks and barbers amidst them.

There is a well-developed cattle farm attached to the Sanatorium. The fruit bearing gardens and the grazing cattle found in the 164 acre hospital campus tell their own tale of the amount of work put in by the patients and the care with which they tender cattle and crops on the land. It is worth mentioning that they were able to win the first, second and third prizes in the Alleppey District Cattle show held in 1959.

There is a Library attached to the Sanatorium and the inmates spend their leisure hours reading journals and books thus keeping in touch with the rest of the world. The institution has also a temple, mosque and church to cater to the spiritual needs of the different religious groups—Hindus, Muslims and Christians. A spacious Assembly Hall houses the children's school and the reading room and library, and whenever needed, this hall is used to hold meetings, dramas and other entertainments. In the "healthy area" of the Sanatorium are quarters for the medical officers, nursing sisters and other staff, the office electric power house, water supply tank, pump house, and provision contractor's store. The campus is electrically lighted and supplied with filtered pipe water. Sanitary arrangements also include a number of water closets with flushing arrangements and with a septic tank for each. There are two incinerators for the disposal of used dressings and other refuse. Dead bodies of lepers are burnt and a cremation shed with tall chimneys ensures the proper disposal of corpses and prevention of nuisance from effluvia. There is also a scheme for the rehabilitation of the cured patients. A Rehabilitation Centre has been opened at Pallickal and 48 ex-patients have been settled there.

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

AYURVEDA

The Department of Indigenous Medicine maintains 5 Government Ayurvedic Hospitals and 25 Government Ayurvedic Dispensaries in this District. The hospitals are located at Alleppey, Tiruvalla, Mavelikara, Shertallai and Chengannur. The hospitals at Alleppey, Shertallai and Chengannur have 2 Physicians each on their staff and those of Tiruvalla and Mavelikara three each. Each of these hospitals has a bed strength of 10 for treatment of in-patients. In 1963-64, 761 in patients and 124, 207 out-patients were treated in these hospitals. The hospitals at Tiruvalla and Mavelikara have also Visha Vaidya sections attached to them. In 1963-64 these sections treated 436 cases of snake-bite and 33, 302 cases of other bites.

The Ayurvedic Dispensaries are located at Arattupuzha, Arur, Ayirur, Cheppad, Kadapra, Kallupara, Kaviyur, Kumarapuram, Mannar, Maratikulam, Muhamma, Mattathilbhagom, Nedumudy, Onattukara, Pandalam, Talavady; Punnapra, Pattanakad, Pallipuram, Kayamkulam, Kizhaipur, Ennakkad, Pallipad, Bharnikavu and Viyapuram. Each of these Dispensary is in the charge of a Physician. The total number of patients treated in these Dispensaries came to 271,669 in 1963-64.

In addition to the Ayurvedic Hospitals and Dispensaries there are also 64 grant-in-aid Ayurvedic Institutions in this District. Of these, 9 are classified as Grade I and 55 as Grade II. The former get a grant in-aid of Rs. 75 per mensem and the latter Rs. 65/-

HOMOEOPATHY

This District has a Government Homoeopathic Hospital at Mavelikara and a Government Homoeopathic Dispensary at Alleppey. Both the institutions are under the Director of Indigenous Medicine and a Medical Officer each is in immediate charge of them. In 1963-64 a total of 62,073 persons were treated in these institutions. Of these 6008 were men, 17,159 women and 98,111 children.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS & DISPENSARIES

Brief accounts of some of the important private hospitals and dispensaries in the District are given below:

GREEN GARDENS, SHERTALLAI

The Green Gardens, Shertallai which comprises of a Leprosy Hospital and a General Hospital, owes its origin to the humanitarianism of Rev. Father Joseph K. W. Thomas who, as Assistant Vicar of Muttom church, had to encounter patients of all kinds including lepers wandering about the streets of Shertallai town and suburbs. Out of compassion for the afflicted he started a temporary dispensary near the church. Due to lack of funds and space he had to wait until 1942 to open the poor Leprosy Hospital and Sacred Heart General Hospital in their present location. The present site near the public cemetery was acquired only with great difficulty with the help of generous benefactors. In the beginning there was only a small shed to accommodate the sick patients. But with the generous help of the public, a small dispensary, a female and male ward each and quarters for Father Joseph were soon constructed. The nursing of the patients was entrusted to the Sisters after a time. Thus the leprosy hospital came into being in February, 1942. Once the Leprosy Hospitals started

work, the general patients had to be attended to and so a general hospital was also constructed. It started functioning in July 1942. The staff of the General Hospital consists of 3 male doctors, 1 lady Doctor, 1 Matron, 1 Sister Tutor, 1 Radiographer, 1 Laboratory technician, 13 staff nurses 13 nursing students, 1 pharmacist and two dentists. Among the doctors, one has specialised in Surgery, another in Pharmacology and the lady doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The bed strength is 80. The special facilities include an operation theatre, with modern surgical instruments for all branches of medicine, Boyle apparatus for anaesthesia, and up to date laboratory with modern equipments etc. The number of patients treated during 1963-64 came to 26,000.

EBBNEZER HOSPITAL, KAYAMKULAM

This is a private nursing home which was started on the 18th April 1964. It is located in the centre of the Municipal town of Kayamkulam by the side of the Quilon-Alleppey Road, about 2 furlongs south of the Kerala State Transport Station. The staff consists of one Doctor, four Nurses, one Compounder, one X-ray Technician, one Clerk-cum-Cashier, one Peon-cum-watchman and one Sweeper. It has a bed strength of 20. The special facilities include a new X-ray plant with facilities for all diagnostic uses, a well-equipped Chemical Laboratory and an operation Theatre.

CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSION HOSPITAL, TALAVADY

The Church of Christ Mission Hospital, Talavady was started on December 4, 1952 as a non-profit organisation serving the people of the surrounding areas. The staff of the institution consists of one Doctor, 7 Nurses, one Laboratory Technician and one Compounder. The bed strength is 30. The special facilities include an operation theatre and a Laboratory. The number of out-patients treated here in 1963 came to 5,435 and in-patients to 426.

ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION HOSPITAL, CHAMPAKULAM

The St. Joseph's Mission Hospital, Champakulam, started functioning in 1964. It is under the management of the St. Mary's Forane Church, Champakulam. The hospital has on its staff one Doctor, 3 Nurses, one Compounder, one Attender and 1 Peon. Its bed strength is 12. There is a laboratory attached to the institution. During the first six months since its opening it treated 157 in-patients and 1,850 out-patients.

C.M. HOSPITAL PANTALAM

The Christian Mission Hospital (C.M. Hospital) Pantalam, started functioning on October 21, 1952. In 1954 a ward with five free beds was added to the original out-patients clinic. In 1956, 5 more beds were added. In 1958 a clinical laboratory was attached. With the addition of 5 more beds in 1951, the bed strength rose to 15. The staff of the hospital consists of 1 doctor, 3 nurses and 1 compounder. The number of patients treated here in 1963-64 came to 12,000.

PUSHPAGIRI HOSPITAL, TIRUVALLA

The Pushpagiri Hospital, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Tiruvalla, was opened in August 1959 with 12 Maternity beds and a dispensary accommodated in an old building; A new block was built to accommodate the Hospital in the following year and the number of beds was increased to 601. The present bed strength is 103, with the addition of isolation and pediatric departments. Though a general hospital, this institution is particularly intended to cater to the medical needs of women and children. There are both Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Pediatric specialists on the staff. In January 1964 an Auxiliary-Nursing and Midwifery School was opened in the Hospital. The staff consists of 5 doctors, 15 nurses, 3 midwives, 8 nursing aids, 1 laboratory technician and 2 compounders. The special facilities include a Laboratory and an X-ray plant. In 1953, 2,198 in-patients and 6,092 out-patients were treated.

ST. THOMAS MISSION HOSPITAL, KATTANAM, PALLICKAL

This Hospital is the outcome of private initiative. The late Dr. C.G. Kurian, Changanayil, Pallickal (Bharanikavu) donated 4 acres of his land and his house for the Mar Thoma Sabha. The members of the Mar Thoma Parishes nearby bought the adjacent 16 acres of land and gave the same to the Sabha for starting a Medical Centre. The Hospital was inaugurated in 1949 with a bed strength of five. It has grown gradually to the present bed strength of 105. The hospital has a well equipped Laboratory, X-ray plant, a T.B. Ward and a Canteen to cater to the needs of the patients as well as the staff. The staff consists of 3 Doctors, 1 Nursing Superintendent, 15 Nurses, 2 Compounders, 2 Laboratory Technicians, 1 X-ray Technician and 10 other staff. It is seen that 35,569 out-patients and 1,708 in-patients were treated in 1963-64.

TIRUVALLA MEDICAL MISSION, TIRUVALLA

The Tiruvalla Medical Mission Hospital was established in 1940 as a charitable institution under the Dewan Bahadur V. Varghese Hospital Trust. From a small beginning, this Hospital has grown into a large institution, with a branch each at Vazhur and Ranni. The staff at Tiruvalla alone consists of 7 doctors, 33 nurses 5 Compounders, 2 Laboratory Technicians, 1 X-ray Technician and 25 others. The bed strength is 150. The hospital provides facilities for treatment in several branches of medicine such as General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, X-ray etc. The hospital has also a laboratory which is well equipped. A higher grade Nurses and Midwives Training School which caters for 60 nurses at different stages of their training is also attached to the hospital at Tiruvalla. 3,700 in-patients and 34,452 out-patients were treated here in 1963.

N. S. S. MEDICAL MISSION HOSPITAL, PANTALAM


The N. S. S. Medical Mission functions with its headquarters at Pantalam. It has its branches at Ochira (Quilon District) Perumpuzha (Quilon District) and Changanacherry (Kottayam District). The Mission Hospital at Pantalam, was established in December 1961. Its aims are to give medical aid, to establish branches and to train personnel for the medical profession in its various branches. The staff consists among others, of 6 Doctors (including a Dental Surgeon), 1 X-ray technician, 2 compounders, 1 Sister Tutor, 8 Nurses, 20 Warders etc. The hospital has a bed strength of 120 (35 Medical, 35 Surgical, 40 Maternity and 10 Children). The special facilities include one X-ray plant and a Laboratory. In 1963-64, 15,654 out patients and 2,873 in patients were treated here. There is an Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife Training Centre attached to this institution where 15 candidates are admitted a year. The course is for 2 years. The entire expenditure of the Training Centre is met by the Government of India under the Community Development Programme. There is also a Family Planning Clinic attached to this hospital, and the expenditure is met by the Government of India.

NARAYANA GURU MEDICAL MISSION, PATIRAPALLY

This institution was started in October 1955 to cater to the needs of poor patients. Approximately 200 persons get free treatment here every month. Fifty beds are provided to people of low income at a nominal fee of 25 paise per bed and 20 beds to those of the upper middle class at the rate of Re. 1/- to 1150 per bed. There is a T. B

Ward here with 25 beds on no cost basis and it is housed in a thatched shed. It is proposed to put up a pucca T. B. ward replacing the present thatched one at a cost of Rs. 50,000 which will include cost of beds etc., and also a well-equipped theatre which are badly lacking now.

There are about 40 persons on the staff including 4 Doctors. Attached to the hospital there is a well-equipped laboratory where all tests pertaining to clinical pathology, biochemistry etc., are being performed. There is also a well-equipped operation theatre attached to the hospital. The benefits of a dental clinic under a qualified dentist and the radiology department equipped with 2 X-ray plants, ultra-violet and infra-red ray plants are also made available to the patients as and when needed. The total number of patients who received treatment from the Mission each year from 1962-64 is given below:-



Year	Out patients	In-patients
1962	7,294	1,814
1963	6,260	1,558
1964	5,558	1,349

SRI NARAYANA MEDICAL MISSION (GENERAL HOSPITAL & T.B. CLINIC)

This institution, located in Sri Narayanapuram, Shertallai town was established in 1120 K. E. (1944). The Hospital has a bed strength of 100 in-patients. It has on its staff 6 Doctors and 9 Nurses. 7,500 persons were treated here as out-patients and 20 84 as in-patients in 1964. The institution has an Operation Theatre fully equipped with all modern facilities, a blood bank, a laboratory, and an X-ray unit. It has on its staff specialists for Gynaecology and Obstetrics. This institution claims to be the first in the State to experiment plastic surgery. The hospital has assets worth Rs 5 lakhs. In 1964 it had an income of Rs. 1,62,000 and an expenditure of Rs. 1,65,000. It received Government grants totalling Rs. 59,000. About 30% of the patients were treated free.

BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ—GENERAL WELFARE CENTRE, KATTANAM, KAYAMKULAM

The Sevanam Hospital, Kattanam, was opened on 19th April, 1953 under the auspices of the Bharat Sevak Samaj, and it has three branch dispensaries under it. It is governed by a managing committee of 7 elected members and 4 nominated members (ex-officio). The

staff of the Hospital visit training camps and rural areas to give free medical aid and lectures on medical activities. A Family Planning Clinic is also attached to this Hospital. The staff consists of 2 Doctors, 3 Nurses, 2 Midwives, 2 Social Workers, 1 Compounder etc. The bed strength is 42. Trained midwives are sent out from here to villages to render free medical aid under proper supervision. No rent is recovered from the patients for accommodation provided in the Hospital and medicines are given free of cost in deserving cases. A well equipped Laboratory is attached to the Hospital for pathological tests. The number of patients treated here during the year 1963-64 came to 54,000.

SANKARA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, NANGIARKULANGARA

This hospital was started on January 1, 1959, by a private medical practitioner in memory of his father who died twenty-five years ago. It is situated to the south of Nangiarkulangara Junction, on the western side of National Highway 47. The staff consists of one Doctor, two Nurses-cum compounders, one male attender, two Voluntary Nurses and one sweeper. The bed strength is eleven. The number of patients treated in 1963-64 came to seven thousand.

MALAYA DISPENSARY AND NURSING HOME, MAVELIKARA

This dispensary was started in 1946 with a bed strength of 4 and a staff consisting of one Doctor, one Compounder and one nurse. The bed strength was increased to 11 in 1947 and 17 in 1955. The staff now consists of one Doctor, two Compounders, three Nurses, two Watchers and one Accountant. The number of in-patients treated during the year 1963-64 came to 335 and out-patients to 10,894.

DRUGS CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

In Kerala State Drugs Inspectors appointed under Chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 are functioning as District Officers under the control of the Drugs Controller who is the Head of the Department at the State level. There is one Drug Inspector for each revenue District except Alleppey which is under the additional charge of the Drugs Inspector, Ernakulam. The Drugs Inspector has to enforce the following laws and rules framed thereunder:-

Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules 1940

Poisons Act 1919 and the Kerala Poisons Rules 1960

Drugs and Magic Remedies (objectionable Advertisement) Act 1954.

Dangerous Drugs Act 1930 limited to the Narcotic Policy of Government of India

The Drugs Inspector collects applications for grant of renewal of licenses and forwards them to the Licensing Authority (Drugs Controller) along with his remarks and recommendations. His main duty is, however, to conduct inspections of premises where Drugs or Poisons are manufactured, stocked sold or distributed in the District. All licensed premises have to be inspected twice a year by the Drugs Inspector. He draws samples of Drugs at regular intervals and sends them for analysis to the Government Analyst. On receipt of orders from the Drugs Controller, he freezes Drugs which are declared as misbranded or not of standard quality.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning Programme is a centrally sponsored scheme with high priority. The Government of India have approved a scheme for the organisation of the staff pattern and programme of Family Planning activities in all the States all over India. Under this scheme female Family Planning Field Workers and the M. C. H. workers will work as an integrated team. For every 10,000 of the population, there is a M.C.H. Centre. The building is centrally situated in the selected area. The Public Health Midwife or Auxiliary Nurse Midwife is resident in the quarters provided for her. The Health Visitor/Public Health Nurse resides in the headquarters of her jurisdiction. In the Health Centres, ante-natal and Child Welfare Clinics are held on separate days. In the M.C.H. Centres the clinic is a combined ante-natal and child welfare one. For the M.C.H. Centres outside the Health Units, Saturdays are clinic days. The midwives working in the wards assist in the ante-nate clinics.

Domiciliary services to the mothers and toddlers shall be given by the Midwife primarily assisted and supervised by the Health Visitor or Public Health Nurse in the Health Units. Every expectant mother is to be examined once a month upto 7 months, once in two weeks upto 9 months and once a week during the last month. The Public Health Midwife is to conduct at least 50% of the total births in the area allotted to her. She should visit the mother once a day for the first three days after delivery and thereafter on alternate days. Infants should be seen once a month and milestones in developments noted. Toddlers should be visited once in three months. Midwives working in Health Centres where there is no in patient should work in the field on the days when the out patient Department is closed in the afternoon.

The Health Visitors Public Health Nurses are to establish close contact with the Women's Organisations in their area. Mother craft classes and Health Education shall be a regular feature. The sewing machine supplied to the Health Units could be used for teaching the mothers cutting and sewing. Clothes for the needy mothers and children can be stitched by the staff as well as the mothers of the club. All expectant mothers within the area are to be registered. The UNICEF drugs and diet supplements are supplied every quarter under a UNICEF assisted M.C.H. programme Milk feeding centres are opened to cater to 100 persons each. Periodical recording of height and weight of the children is being done.

The District Medical Officer of Health is the executive head of the Public Health staff in the District. There is one Assistant District Medical Officer of Health and one District Family Planning Medical Officer for supervising the M.C.H. activities and Family Planning activities under the District Medical Officer of Health, in the District level. Also there is one District Public Health Nurse to supervise the M.C.H. and Family Planning activities at the District level.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

ALLEPPEY WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

The greatest draw-back of Alleppey town was for long in respect of good drinking water. Due to its peculiar geographical position the town is cut off from fresh water-rivers while the physical features, and soil formation of the region render the supply of water from wells and ponds unwholesome. The town is built over a sandy belt of land, barely 3 miles broad. On the west there is the Arabian Sea and on the east the Vembanad lake and the Pallathuruthy river. The water in the lake and that in the river for a distance of 20 miles above Alleppey town turn blackish during the hot weather, become unfit for drinking purposes and continue to be so for about 5 months. The source of supply has been mainly from shallow wells and ponds. The soil consists of hard, dark, brown, ferruginous sand and humus overlaid with fine white sand. Rain water readily soaks into the porous soil and appears as subsoil water in the wells and ponds. The water in the wells, though not blackish, is in the case of the majority of the wells, coloured dark brown, disagreeable both to the taste and appearance and unsatisfactory both from chemical and bacteriological stand-point.

The question of protected water supply for domestic purposes engaged the attention of the Travancore Government from the year

1925 The main problem to be solved was in respect of the source of supply. Several suggestions were put forward during the period 1925 to 1936. The idea of a distant source of supply, involving long lengths of mains over water-logged country, had to be given up on account of the prohibitive cost then estimated at Rs. 40 to 50 lakhs.

The next alternative was to tap the subsoil sources at a depth of 15 to 20 feet below the surface. This also had to be given up on account of the fact that the process of extracting and purifying water would have been elaborate. At this stage, a careful study of the available literature on the geological formation of the coastal region suggested the possibility of the existence of ground water not deeper than 400 feet below the surface and investigation was directed towards prospecting for ground water by means of deep-bore wells.

The first experimental bore was commenced in April 1936. The very first trial proved an unqualified success and was immediately installed as a Bore well, 8 inches in diameter and 350 feet deep from the ground level. Another reliable well of similar diameter and 370 feet deep to serve as a standby was also installed, after further trials. With these two wells successfully installed the problem of the source was solved. The water obtained from these wells was, on analysis, found to be quite clear and pure so that costly purification processes such as filtration were found unnecessary. The investigation for the preparation of the scheme in all details commenced towards the close of the year 1935 and was completed early in 1937. The estimated cost of the scheme was Rs. 10,80,000.

The Alleppey Water Supply Scheme is known as Maharani Sethu Parvathi Water Works. The details of the system are as follows. Water is drawn from tube wells at Punnappa and Thookkukulam four miles and two miles respectively from the town. There are four reservoirs in various places of the town. Water is pumped from the wells almost for all the 24 hours and these tanks are used for balancing the supply. A total of 5,50,000 gallons per day is supplied for houses from these wells and reservoirs. There were 1,219 house connections in the town in 1963-64. Moreover, the Municipal Council has also provided public wells and tanks at different points in the town in order to provide drinking water during emergency.

KAYAMKULAM WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Water Supply Scheme to Kayamkulam and Shertallai Municipalities were included in the Third Five Year Plan. The schemes were taken up in right earnest and even before they were completed in all respects water supply was commenced to the most needy parts

of these towns through street fountains. The date of initial commissioning of the Kayamkulam Scheme was December 18, 1963. Water was drawn from tube wells and supplied through 10 street taps provided in the main centres of the town. In addition, water was supplied for the Ice plant installed near boat jetty and also for the Government Hospital. The supply system consists of 4" Tube Well and a 25,000 gallons capacity R.C.C. over-head tank. The distribution system is designed in such a way that adequate quantity of water would always be available for domestic purposes at a terminal pressure of 40' at all points in the distribution lines even during the peak demand period. The requirements of water are calculated at 20 gallons per head per day. Three hundred street fountains are proposed for the whole town, in addition to house connections to be taken up after the full commissioning of the scheme.

Out of three R. C. C. over-head tanks of 1 lakh gallon capacity proposed for the scheme, two have already been completed and the third is being erected. The cost of the scheme is estimated as Rs. 17,00,000.

SHERTALLAI WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

The date of initial commissioning of the Shertallai Water Supply is October 10, 1964. The source of water supply here also is the tube well. In order to provide immediate benefit under the scheme to the inhabitants of Shertallai town 75 street taps have been provided in the first instance. The distribution system is designed in such a way that there is a terminal head of 30' at all taps in the line even during the peak demand period and a quantity of 20 gallons of water per head would be available everyday. A total of the quantity of 320 street taps are proposed for the whole town in addition to house connections which would be taken up after the whole scheme has been commissioned.

An R.C.C. Over-head tank of one lakh gallons capacity has already been completed and another R.C.C. Over-head tank of 20,000 gallon capacity is under construction. The cost of the scheme is estimated as Rs. 26 04,000.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

The water supply position in villages is not very satisfactory. Nine villages outside the Kuttanad area namely, Pandalam, Mannar, Haripad, Villazhikal, Mahadevikad, Purakkad, Ambalapuzha, Karthikapally and Arattupuzha have got protected water

supply schemes. The schemes are at present intended for supply through street taps alone. The maintenance charges of these schemes are met by the local bodies. The work on water supply in the following centres is also in progress:- Airur, Pathiankara Nangiarkulangara, Vettathukadavu. Pallana, Thanteermukkom Karumady, Mutukulam, Chettikad and Devikulangara. Investigation of schemes for proposed water supply in other villages is being conducted.

WATER SUPPLY IN KUTTANAD

Kuttanad is the most unfortunate area in Alleppey District in respect of the supply of protected water for human consumption. Water supply schemes for four centres, viz., Monkombu, Champakulam Vezhapra, and Ramankari have already been commissioned. Another one at Nedumuduv is nearing completion. Water supply schemes at Pullangadi and Takazhi are also being taken up. Water supply schemes for Kanjipadam, Edathwa, Chempumpuram, Viyapuram etc., are under investigation.

DRAINAGE AND URBAN SANITATION

There are no scientifically conceived drainage systems anywhere in the District. But ordinary drains have been provided at important places in municipal towns like Alleppey. Drains have been provided in Shertallai town on either side of the Alleppey-Arur road and Vayalar road for a short distance and also at the St. Mary's School West Junction. Fresh water is drained off.

In the Alleppey Municipality, nightsoil from the bucket type latrines and septic tank latrines is collected by scavengers in wheel barrows and deposited in drums placed in different places in the town. These drums are then removed in lorries to the trenching ground. The nightsoil, urine and the slaughter-house waste collected are used for manufacture of compost manure. Four workers are specially deputed for this purpose. Moreover, sweepers employed by the Municipality collect rubbish in dust bins kept in convenient places in the town. It is then removed in lorries and tractor trailers to the compost depot daily. Sullage from the septic tanks is removed occasionally as per the request of the house owners and mixed with compost. Liquid slaughter house waste is also removed every day in a tank trailer and used for compost manufacture. One conservancy simplex treatment plant is also functioning at the Nightsoil Depot.

In the Shertallai Municipality there are only sweepers and 3 scavengers. All the important roads are cleaned everyday. The lanes connected to these are swept twice a week and other roads nearby once a week. Rubbish is collected in dust bins provided by the Municipality. It is transported in the Municipal hand-cart to two rubbish depots in Wards No.XVII and VIII. The same is periodically auctioned and disposed. Action is being taken to produce compost out of this rubbish. Collection and removal of nightsoil is not done here. Only road scavenging is done. Three scavengers are employed by the Municipality. They attend to the cleaning of drains, public urinalas, slaughter houses and road scavenging. No public latrine has been provided here.

In the Tiruvalla Municipality private scavenging has not been introduced while in Mavelikara it has been introduced on a limited scale. The public health staff of the Municipality attend to the general sanitation work.

SLUM CLEARANCE

A detailed scheme for slum clearance has been prepared by the Alleppey Municipality with the concurrence of the Chief Town Planner of the State Government and a site of about 2 acres of land has been acquired for its implementation. In Shertallai Municipality no area has so far been declared as slum area and hence no action has been taken in the matter of slum clearance. But the area lying on the eastern side of the A.S. Canal from the public latrine upto Kayal with the Pallithodu beside it is considered to be a slum area and steps are being taken to improve the area. There is no slum clearance scheme at present in the Tiruvalla Municipality. But a portion Ward X and Municipal Colony in Ward XIV have been included in slum clearance scheme under the Fourth Five Year Plan.

APPENDIX

S.E.T. CENTRES AND HOSPITALS FOR TREATMENT OF LEPROSY IN ALLEPPEY DISTRICT

Cases detected

Name of S. E. T. Centres.	Existing Popula- tion	Number examined	Lepro- matous	Non Lepro- matous	Total	Pre- valence rate	No. of cases attend- ing the clinic from		
							under observ- ation.	Non-Lepro- matous	Total
1 Ambalapuzha	19,486	14,910	20	65	85	0.56%	353	8	14
2 Thakazhy	17,320	11,248	18	37	55	0.51%	226	0	7
3 Haripad	21,352	16,156	11	166	177	1.7%	1265	41	244
4 Trikkunnappuzha	17,048	13,706	3	38	41	0.3%	207	1	10
5 Thuravoor	21,287	17,825	19	389	408	2.1%	1785	19	118
6 Arookutty	20,206	17,074	19	98	117	0.47%	452	14	54
7 Thumpamon	15,175	11,019	4	8	12	0.92%	76	0	3
8 Thiruvalla	16,427	13,457	2	2	4	0.04%	9	10	6
9 Thycattussery	15,818	11,989	20	138	158	1.2%	778	0	0
10 Chettkad	18,630	13,321	12	116	128	1.1%	662	8	25
11 Ezhuponna	17,859	14,142	8	148	156	0.75%	851	2	19
12 Muthukulam	25,115	20,417	13	74	87	0.04%	348	0	0

13	Kayamkulam	20,307	16,135	6	42	48	0.04%	521	38	104	142
14	Muhamma	17,063	13,717	10	137	147	1.5%	584	2	58	60
15	Kurathikad	17,413	11,892	5	86	91	0.8%	485	3	23	26
16	Mannar	15,354	11,377	3	15	18	0.15%	77	3	7	10
17	Mavelikara	11,553	10,000	5	8	13	0.17%	153	8	12	20
18	Shertallai South, } Run by	20,013	17,707	5	114	149	0.13%	728	0	0	0
19	Green Gardens, } Green										
	Shertallai } Gardens	17,520	14,862	10	170	180	0.8%	1028	0	0	0
20	Shertallai I } Shertallai.	16,332	12,303	6	88	94	0.8%	451	0	0	0
21	Shertallai II } Shertallai	15,227	12,984	15	114	129	1.0%	709	4	9	13
22	Pattanakad I } Run by Holy	14,806	10,211	5	85	91	0.75%	371	0	0	0
23	Pattanakad II } Cross Convent,	15,237	10,190	6	120	125	1.14%	601	0	0	0
24	Pattanakad III } Kottiyam.	14,508	9,447	10	109	119	1.09%	534	0	0	0
25	Pattanakad IV } Kottiyam.	15,200	11,367	7	122	129	1.06%	575	0	0	0
		4,35,634	3,35,984	250	2519	2769	0.84%	13,929	161	715	874

IN-PATIENT INSTITUTIONS

Name of Institution	Bed Strength	No. admitted	Treatment
1 Leprosy Sanatorium, Nooranad	794	873	All modern treatment in leprosy. A Physio-
2 Green Gardens, Shertallai (Private)	200	200	therapy Unit is functioning from this year.

N. B. The figures are furnished as on 30th September 1965.

APPENDIX II

Statement Showing the Names of Govt. Medical Institutions in Alleppey District, Their Location Bed Strength staff Expenditure Etc., For 1963-64

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	Taluk	Panchayat or Municipality	Bed strength	Doctors lists	Specialists	Nurses	Compounders	Location	Bed Strength	Expenditure including that of medicine (Rs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Dist. Hospital, Alleppey	Ambalapuzha	Alleppey town	179	15	4	24	2	6		3,50,054.81
2	Women & Children Hospital, Alleppey	do.	do.	212	6	...	14	7	3		2,13,751.47
3	Govt. Hospital, Shertallai	Shertallai	Shertallai town	96	3	...	6	5	2		67,800.13
4	Govt. Hospital, Thycattussery	do.	Thycattussery	12	1	...	1	1	1		20,383.93
5	Govt. Hospital, Haripad	Kartbi-kapally	Pallipad	63	2	...	5	2	2		86,112.92
6	do Kayamkulam	do	Kayamkulam town	56	2	...	6	2	3		91,590.14
7	do Mavelikara	Mavelikara	Mavelikara town	130	3	...	12	2	3		1,46,504.99
8	do Chengannur	Chengannur	Chengannur	30	2	...	3	1	2		37,043.23
9	do Tiruvalla	Tiruvalla	Tiruvalla town	73	2	...	7	3	2		88,222.07
10	P. H. Centre, Perumbalam	Shertallai	Mattathilbhagam	1	...	...	1	1	1		12,975.49
11	do Arookutty	do	do	8	2	...	1	3	1		34,023.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	do	Muhanna	do Muhanna	17	1	...	1	6	1	41,629.71
13	do	Chettikad	Ambalapuzha Mararikulam							
			South	8	2	...	1	5	1	27,070.93
14	do	Thuravur	Shortaelal	Kuthiathodu	12	1	...	4	1	92,103.02
15	do	Ambalapuzha	Ambalapuzha	12	2	...	...	5	1	42,254.65
16	do	Mallappally	Tiruvalla	Mallappally	12	1	...	9	1	27,193.12
17	do	Kurathikad	Mavelikara	Thekkakara	6	1	...	6	1	37,341.00
18	do	Chathankary	Tiruvalla	Peringara	6	1	...	4	1	13,991.38
19	do	Pulinkunnu	Kuttanad	Pulinkunnu	20	1	...	1	1	24,827.96
20	do	Pandanad	Chengannur	Pandanad	6	1	...	...	1	6,325.61
21	do	Ezhumattoor	Tiruvalla	Ezhumattoor	16	1	...	...	1	37,212.43
22	do	Mannar	Chengannur	Mannar	4	1	...	4	1	34,607.42
223	do	Kanjeevutara	Tiruvalla	Ayral	8	1	...	4	1	33,607.42
24	do	Thrikkuunna	Karthikappally	Thrikkuunna			...	7	1	37,699.68
		puzha		puzha	Nil	1	...	...	...
25	P.H.	Centre,	Thumpamon	Mavelikara			...	5	1	Not reported
			Thumpamon	Thumpamon	93	1	...	...	...
26	Govt.	Dispensary,					...	1	1	do
		Niranam	Tiruvalla	Niranam	Nil	1	...	...	...
57	do	Veliyanad	Kuttanad	Veliyanad	Nil	1	...	1	1	9,327.39
28	do	Muthuku-	Karthikappally	Muthukulam			...	1	1	19,941.68
		lam			Nil	1	...	...	...
29	do	Theliiyoor	Tiruvalla	Ezhumattoor	24	1	...	1	1	17,312.80

30	do	Oathera	do	Eraviperur	12	1	...	...	1	1	9,364.88
31	do	Kalavur	Ambalapuzha	Mannancherry	5	1	...	...	1	1	9,667.77
32	do	Edathua	Kuttanad	Kozhimukku	12	1	...	...	1	1	10,233.74
33	do	Kottangal	Iruvalla	Kottangal Nil	1	1	...	...	1	1	5,141.10
34	do	Pandalam	Chengannur	Kulanada	6	1	...	...	1	1	16,463.43
35	do	Vallikkunnu	Mavelikkara	Vallikkunnu Nil	1	1	...	...	1	1	7,537.83
36	do	Cheryanad	Chengannur	Cherianad Nil	1	1	...	...	1	1	9,514.00
37	do	Venmony	do	Venmony	4	1	...	...	1	1	9,826.06
38	do	Thakazhy	Kuttanad	Thankazhy	8	1	...	...	1	1	13,608.50
39	do	Ezhupunna	Shertallai	Ezhupunna	4	1	...	...	...	1	10,501.21
40	Floating Dispensary,										
		Champakulam	Kuttanad	Nedumudi Nil	1	1	...	...	...	1	26,905.87
41	T.B. Clinic,	Karuvatta	Karikapally	Karuvatta Nil	...	1	...	...	...	1	17,342.14
42	Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation,	Mararikulam	Shertallai	Mararikulam Nil	...	...	...	...	...	1	22,433.1
43	P.H. Central,	Vallana	Chengannur	Arumala	...	1	...	...	4	1	Opened during 1964
44	do	Chintur	Mavelikkara	Chintur	1	...	...	...	4	1	do

CHAPTER- XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour welfare measures are implemented in Kerala mainly by the Department of Labour and the Chief Inspectorate of Factories and Boilers. The Department of Labour is responsible for the administration of the vast majority of labour laws, while the Inspectorate of Factories and Boilers administers the Factories Act 1948, the Payment of wages Act (1936) in respect of factories, the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act (1957) and the Indian Boiler's Act 1923.

The District Labour Officer, Alleppey, is the head of the Labour Department in the District. There are 10 Assistant Labour Officers in this District to assist the District Labour Officer in his work. Of these three have their offices in Alleppey town itself while the other seven have their offices located at Chengannur, Edathva, Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Mankompu, Shertallai, and Tiruvalla. In addition, there is a Special Officer for Coir Industries and an Inspector under the Shops and Establishments Act. The District Labour Officer is the Conciliation Officer as per section 2 (d) of the Industrial Disputes Act. He initiates conciliation proceedings for the settlement of disputes. As the conciliation power has not been vested in the Assistant Labour Officers the latter try to settle disputes by mediation and by joint discussions and in the event of their failure to achieve a settlement, the matter is referred to the District Labour Officer. Each Assistant Labour Officer is assisted by one or two Welfare Assistants also. The statement of the work done by the Labour Department in this District with the number of disputes that arose and were settled, the number of strikes and lock-outs, the number of man-days lost and the number of cases of adjudication during each of the years from 1958 to 1964 is given below.

Particulars of work done by the Labour Department (1958-59 to 1963-64)

Year	Number of disputes that arose	Number of disputes settled	Number of strikes	Number of lock- outs	Number of man- days lost	Number of cases of adjudi- cation

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1958-59	1,837	1,773	10	2	65 935	20
1959-60	1,603	1,429	7	1	2 239	28
1960-61	1,409	1,160	9	..	3 139	18
1961-62	1,458	1,156	..	..	3,840	17
1962-63	1 178	894	3	1	7,501	18
1963-64	1 042	841	4	..	77,232	21

INSPECTORATE OF FACTORIES & BOILERS

The Inspectorate of Factories and Boilers functions under the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers with headquarters at Trivandrum. The Chief Inspector conducts inspections of factories within the State. There is a Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers to assist him and also in the administration of the Factories Act, the Payment of Wages Act in respect of factories, the Maternity Benefit Act in respect of factories, and the Indian Boilers Act. In addition there is a Medical Inspector of Factories who visits factories within the State and give advice on matters relating to the safety and health of workers and suggests measures for protection against industrial hazards. While the above officers have State-wide jurisdiction the Regional Inspectors of Factories and the Inspectors of Factories conduct inspections of factories in their respective jurisdictions which come under Sec. 2 (m) of the Factories Act (major factories) and of enforce the provisions of the Factories Act and Payment of Wages Act and the rules framed thereunder. The Additional Inspectors of Factories inspect factories in their respective jurisdictions, which come under Sec. 85 of the Factories Act (minor factories) and enforce the provisions of the Factories Act and Payment of Wages Act and the rules framed thereunder. The Inspectresses of Factories for Women Welfare attend to the enforcement of the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act and also certain provisions of the Factories Act & Rules relating to employment and welfare of women and children. The Regional Inspectors of Factories supervise also the inspection work of the Inspectors of Factories and Additional Inspectors of Factories within the region.

The administrative set-up of the Inspectorate in regard to Alleppey District is as follows.

(1) Factory Inspectorate Inspector of Factories, Alleppey (Factories coming under Sec. 2 (m) of the Factories Act).	Jurisdiction Taluks of Shertallai, Ambalapuzha and Karthikapally of Alleppey District.
Additional Inspector of Factories, Alleppey (Factories notified under Sec. 85 of the Factories Act).	- do -
Regional Inspector of Factories, Kottayam (Factories coming under Sec. 2 (m) of the Factories Act).	Taluks of Mavelikara, Chengannur, Tiruvalla and Kuttanad of Alleppey District, Taluks of Kottayam, Changanacherry, Vaikam, Minachil, Peermade, Kanjirappally and Udumbanchola of Kottayam Distr- ict Pathanamthitta Taluk of Quilon District and Thodupzha Taluk of Ernakulam District.
Additional Inspector of Factories, Kottayam (Factories notified under Sec. 85 of the Factories Act).	- do -
Inspectress of Factories for Women Welfare, Kundara.	The whole of Trivandrum, Quilon Alleppey Districts and the Kottay- am District excluding Devicolum Taluk.
(2) Boiler Inspectorate Inspector of Boilers Quilon,	The whole of Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey Districts and the Kottayam District excluding Taluks of Vaikam, Devicolum and Udumbanchola.

The labourers in this District enjoy several amenities. The employees of the State Transport Department have a Departmental Canteen where food and other refreshments are served at reduced rates. A comfortable building has been provided near the Depart-

mental Bus Station where the transport employees can have their rest during off-duty hours. There is a good Sports and Arts Club in the District to provide facilities for amusements and recreation to the departmental staff. In almost all major factories of the District the employees are persuaded by the Labour Department to provide special facilities such as Reading Rooms, Canteens etc. The Workmen's Compensation Act is enforced by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner and the workers who sustain injuries or meet with fatal accident in the course of their work are given suitable compensation under the provisions of the Act. Under the Plantation Labour Act the employees in plantations are provided with sufficient housing facilities. The Chief Inspector of Plantations, Kottayam, is the authority for the enforcement of the Act. The employees are also benefited by such Acts as the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act (1957), the Employees Provident Fund Act (1952) and the Employees State Insurance Act (1948). Details of the benefits conferred by these Acts are given below.

MATERNITY BENEFIT ACT

The labourers derive considerable benefit from the provisions of the Kerala Maternity Benefit Act 1957. A statement furnishing details of the maternity benefits enjoyed by women workers employed in factories in the Alleppey District in each of the years from 1957-1966 is given below.

Maternity benefits enjoyed by women workers employed in factories
in the Alleppey District (1957 1966)

Year	Total number of female wor- kers employed in factories submitting returns.	Total number of female wor- kers excluding children covered under the Maternity Act.	Number of claims accepted	Number of miscarria- ges.	Amount of Maternity Benefit paid. Rs.
1957	214	214	11	Nil	996.02
1958	113	113	69	"	5,175.57
1959	298	298	29	7	2,634.33
1960	832	832	61	15	3,084.88
1961	694	694	53	2	1,803.94
1962	688	688	38	88	2,639.52
1963	1,440	938	142	1	9,044.13
1964	645	176	9	-	928.92
1965	504	190	17	-	1,340.75
1966	1,188	899	72	1	4,938.00

EMPLOYEE'S PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

The Employees' Provident Fund Act 1952 which is applicable to 86 classified industries and establishments is in force in this District. Any establishment which has completed 3/5 years of existence and employs 15/20 workers as the case may be and which is engaged in any of the 86 notified industries or establishments is covered by the Act. The Act can also be extended to any establishment under Section I (4) if the employers and the majority of the employees jointly request for such extension. In this District only 15 industries satisfy the requirements for coverage and 56 establishments with an employment strength of 9,567 workers had been brought under coverage of the Employees Provident Fund Act in the Alleppey District in October 1964. Of these 8,895 workers were contributing to the Provident Fund. An industry-wise break up of establishments and employees and subscribers is given below. Industry-wise statement of establishments etc. covered by the

Employees' Provident Fund Scheme (October 1964)

Sl. No.	Industry	Number of establishments.	Number of employees.	Number of subscribers
	Total:	56	9,567	8,895
1	Edible Oils	10	366	342
2	Printing	3	81	65
3	Rubber and Rubber Products	1	288	281
4	Automobile Repairing & Servicing	1	5	5
5	Road Motor Transport	11	321	293
6	Heavy & Fine chemicals	1	101	89
7	Hotels & Restaurants	2	29	24
8	Sugar	1	934	932
9	General Engineering	1	72	72
10	Rubber Plantation	1	9	9
11	Trading and Commercial Estts	9	523	498
12	Distributing of Petroleum	2	64	64
13	Cinema Theatres	1	39	36
14	Wood Industry	4	139	124
15	Cashewnut Industry	6	6,586	6,057
16	Setion 1 (4)	2	8	8

It may be noted that the contribution payable to the Employee's Provident Fund by the employees is $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the basic wages, dearness allowance and retaining allowances paid to each of the employees. The employee's contribution is fixed as being equal to the contribution paid by the employer in respect of him. But in respect of certain industries the rate of contribution is 8 per cent. However, an employee can contribute over and above the statutory minimum, provided the employer agrees to pay the administrative charges for such enhanced rate also. The following non-refundable advances are also given to the members of the Provident Fund under certain conditions:- (1) advance for payment towards insurance policies, (2) advance for house construction, (3) advance for purchase of shares of consumers co-operative, (4) special advance for temporary closure of establishment and (5) advance for illness in certain cases.

EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

The Employees State Insurance Scheme was implemented in this District with effect from September 16, 1956. The number of employees covered by the Employees State Insurance Scheme in September 1964 was 4,338. As only factories employing 20 or more and using power come under the purview of the Employees State Insurance Act only the employees of such establishments are covered under the scheme. The details of the centres where the scheme was functioning, the date of implementation of the scheme and the number of persons covered in each centre in September 1964 are given below.

Centre	Date of implementation	Number of persons covered
Beach ward	September 16, 1956	743
Factory Ward	"	1,554
Patirappally	"	1,286

In addition 365 insured persons were residing in scattered areas.

In 1964 four Employees State Insurance Dispensaries were functioning in this District. Of these three were located in the Beach Ward, Factory Ward and Patirappally while the fourth one was a Mobile Dispensary. A statement of the staff facilities provided for each of the Dispensaries is given below.

Name of Dispensary	Doctor	Midwife	Clerk	Compounder	Dresser	Class IV servants	Driver
1) E. S. I. Dispensary, Beach Ward	1	2	1	1	2	2	...
2) do Factory Ward	2	1	1	2	1	2	...
3) do Patirampally	2	1	2	2	1	3	...
4) do Mobile, Alleppey	1	...	...	1	1	1	1

In addition, for the in-patient treatment of the insured persons 10 General Beds and 4 Maternity Beds were reserved in the District Hospital, Alleppey and Women and Children's Hospital, Alleppey, respectively. A certain number of beds for T.B. patients had been reserved in the T.B. Hospital, Pulayanarkotta, Trivandrum.

OLD AGE PENSION

The Kerala Government introduced with effect from November 1, 1960 a scheme for the grant of pension to destitutes who are 70 years of age or more. Later the age limit was relaxed to 65 years. The maximum amount of pension allowable under this scheme is Rs. 15 per mensem. Till the end of 1966-67 a total number of 2 263 persons had been granted pension in this District. The year wise details of expenditure incurred under the scheme are given below.

Year	Amount disbursed Rs.
1960—61	780.10
1961—62	60,795.00
1962—63	166,568.90
1963—64	174,049.93
1964—65	187,150.94
1965—66	180,713.45
1966—67	181,304.25

T. B. A. SCHEME

A scheme for financial assistance to indigent T.B. patients among the general public is being implemented in Kerala with effect from 1963-64. This is intended mainly to help those who have failed to get admission to T.B. Hospitals and are in dire need of financial help to safeguard their health. A sum of Rs. 30 per mensem is granted to a patient for a period of 6 months in the first instance and it is likely to be renewed for another period of 6 months in

really deserving cases. A Taluk-wise statement of the number of T.B. patients who received such assistance up to March 31, 1967 is given below.

Taluk	No. benefitted
Ambalapuzha	294
Mavelikara	123
Chengannur	71
Tiruvalla	129
Kuttanad	62
Karthikapally	304
Shertallai	206

The amount disbursed under the scheme in each year is given below.

Year	Amount Rs.
1964-65	47,248.18
1965-66	98,799.81
1966-67	47,709.40

WIDOW'S PENSION

The scheme for pension to widows was implemented from 1964. It is given to destitute widows having no income of their own or having income of Rs. 15 per mensem and below. The maximum pension allowable is Rs. 15. The number of persons benefitted till the end of 1966-67, the amount disbursed under the scheme are given below.

Year	Number of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed Rs.
1964-65	513	24 105.09
1965-66	604	1,01,800.13
1966-67	69	1,14,910 22

GRANT-IN-AID TO PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

A scheme for grant-in-aid to physically disabled and handicapped destitutes without any sources of income and having no relatives of over 20 years was introduced in 1964-65. The maximum grant that can be made is Rs. 15 per mensem. The year-wise details of the number of beneficiaries and the amount disbursed are given below.

Year	Number of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed Rs.
1964—65	17	605.96
1965—66	45	5,857.37
1966—67	79	14,842.93

PROHIBITION

Prohibition has not been in force anywhere in the Alleppey District,

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes form the most depressed section of the community. The Department of Harijan Welfare attends to the work connected with their social and economic uplift. The District Welfare Office, Alleppey started functioning in 1958-59. The District Welfare Officer, Alleppey is assisted by 7 Taluk Welfare Inspectors at Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikara, Karthikapally, Ambalapuzha, Kottanad and Shertallai and one Co-operative Inspector and one Industrial Supervisor. The Co-operative Inspector (H.W.) Alleppey is to attend to the work connected with the Harijan Co-operative Societies in Alleppey District and the Industrial Supervisor whose office is housed at Ernakulam and has jurisdiction over the District of Alleppey, Ernakulam and Trichur is to supervise the working of the training centres of this Department. A District Advisory Committee with the District Collector as Chairman gives advice on matters pertaining to the uplift of Harijans.

There are no Scheduled Tribes in Alleppey District and hence the schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes are not implemented here. But there are Scheduled Castes in all parts of the District. Most of the Harijans do not possess lands even for house sites. Hence colonies are established in the different parts of the District. The details of 18 colonies established in Alleppey District till 1964-65 are furnished below.

Sl. No.	Name of Colony	Harijan Colonies (1964-65)		Extent A. C.	Number of houses
		Village	Taluk		
1	V. V. Gram Colony	Shertallai South	Shertallai	4 30	30
2	Kuruppankulangara	do North	do	1 20	12
3	Pattanakkad	Vayalar West	do	1 44	14
4	Puliyur	Puliyur	Chengannur	3 42	30
5	Pantalani North	Mezhuveli	-do-	70 89	38
6	Pandanad	Pandanad	-do-	3 11	27
7	Kunnamthanam	Kaviyur	Tiruvalla	2 35	15
8	Illichira	Purakkad	Ambalapuzha	50 60	50
9	Kumarapuram	Kumarapuram	Karthikapally	3 81.625	33
10	Thekkekkara	Thekkekkara	Mavelikkara	4 64	31
11	Thumpamon	Tonalloor	-do-	8 64	50
12	Kaviyur	Kaviyur	Tiruvalla	9 29	70
13	Manna cherry	Ariad North	Ambalapuzha	5 00	30
14	Aranmula	Aranmula	Chengannur	38 32	175
15	Kakkazham	Ambalapuzha	Ambalapuzha	3 03	26
16	Punnappara	Punnappara	-do-	4 46	30
17	Ariad North	Ariad North	-do-	4 16	37
18	Mezhuveli	Mezhuveli	Chengannur	3 23	29

The occupants of the colonies are eligible for house construction grants. Moreover, there is also a scheme called "Improvement to Colonies" which was introduced in 1962-63. Under this scheme the colony at Kaviyur in Tiruvalla Taluk was taken up for improvement in 1962-63 and the colony at Aranmula in Chengannur Taluk in 1963-64. A common building has been constructed in each of the colonies for congregation purposes. Latrines of the improved type have been constructed in the Aranmula colony.

Harijans in Alleppey District generally live in thatched huts. They are too poor to attend to the timely rethatching and repairs works of the houses year by year. Taking this fact into consideration Government have launched a scheme for providing the Harijans with tiled houses. An amount of Rs- 1,000 is being given to each selected beneficiary. The selection of beneficiaries is being done by the District Advisory Committee. During the years 1958-59 to 1963-64, a total of 324 houses were constructed in Alleppey District. The year wise and Taluk wise number of houses constructed during the period are furnished below.

**Houses constructed for Harijans
(1958-59 to 1963-64)**

Sl No.		Taluk	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
		Total:	61	50	55	55	60	43
1	Ambalapuzha	10	8	6	6	9	8	
2	Sherthallai	9	7	8	7	9	5	
3	Karthikapally	7	7	9	8	8	5	
4	Mavelikara	7	8	9	10	9	7	
5	Tiruvalla	7	8	7	7	9	6	
6	Chengannur	14	8	10	10	9	7	
7	Kuttanad	7	4	6	7	7	5	

In order to provide the Harijans with drinking water facilities Government have launched a scheme for sinking wells in important centres. Till 1964-65 a total of 65 wells had been sunk at Alleppey District with funds set apart for the purpose by the Harijan welfare Department. Of these 9 were in Chengannur Taluk, 6 in Ambalapuzha Taluk, 4 in Sherthallai Taluk, 10 in Mavelikara Taluk, 19 in Tiruvalla Taluk, 7 in Karthikapally and 10 in Kuttanad Taluk.

Burial grounds are also provided in the different parts of the District for the use of the Harijans. In 1964-65 there were 18 of

them in Alappay District- 6 in Karthikapally, 2 in Ambalaphaua, in Kuttanad, 2 in Mavelikara, 4 in Chengannur and 3 in Tiruvalla.

The Department of Harijan Welfare has also taken steps for the establishment of Co-operative Societies among Scheduled Castes and other backward communities. It is seen that 27 societies had been opened in this District till 1964-65.

In order to enable the Harijans to start trades in which they are proficient the Department gives subsidy to technically trained persons and traditional occupants. During 1959-60, 6 persons were given subsidy amounting to Rs. 2,190 and during 1960-61 eleven Scheduled Castes persons were given subsidy amounting to Rs. 2,200 and 29 persons belonging to other Backward Communities subsidy amounting to Rs. 7,250 for the purchase of equipments and accessories required for settling in trade.

Financial assistance to persons suffering from social handicaps due to inter-caste marriage is being given from 1962-63 and by 1964-65 five couples had been given financial assistance at the rates of Rs. 50).

Government have also given interest-free loans to deserving Harijans from 1963-64 onwards for conducting business. Till 1964-65 two persons were given loans at the rate of Rs. 1,000 each in this District.

A Statement of expenditure incurred on Harijan uplift under Plan and non-Plan Schemes in this District from 1958-59 to 1963-64 is furnished below.

Expenditure incurred under Plan and non-Plan Schemes under

Year	Harijan Welfare (1958-59 to 1963-64)	
	Plan Schemes Rs.	Non-Plan Schemes Rs.
1958-59	571,995.49	136,332.46
1959-60	600,93.13	209,373.32
1960-61	888,934.14	192,768.95
1961-62	735,195.38	351,088.18
1962-63	715,440.59	463,905.90
1963-64	729,881.16	581,990.99

Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments Heading
DEVASWAMS

The Travancore Devaswam Board administers the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions in the erstwhile Travancore area

of the State. There is the office of an Assistant Commissioner of Devaswams at Ambalapuzha. For purposes of administration the Devaswam or temples are constituted into Groups each of which is under the charge of a Superintendent appointed by the Board. The Devaswams in Alleppey District come mainly within the following groups viz, Ambalapuzha, Mavelikara, Aranmula, Tiruvalla and Karunagappally. The details of the number of Devaswams in each of the Groups are given below.

Number of Devaswam in the Group

No.	Group	Major	Minor	Petty	Personal Deposit
1	Ambalapuzha	10	24	16	4
2	Mavelikara	18	26	56	7
3	Aranmula	11	11	41	9
4	Tiruvalla	8	26	30	8
5	Karunagappally	11	14	54	7

In addition to the temples the Board is also running a few institutions like schools, libraries, orphanages etc. in this District. It runs High Schools at Takazhi and Tiruvalla and an Upper Primary School at Changamkari. The Sri Chitra Hindu Religious Libraries at Mavelikara, Chengannur, Aranmula, Tiruvalla and Ambalapuzha are also run by the Devaswam Board in this District. There is an Orphanage at Haripad which is also functioning under the Devaswam Board.

WAKF BOARD

The Muslim religious and charitable institutions like mosques Wakf properties etc., are administered by the Kerala Wakf Board which was set up on October 1, 1960 under the provisions of the Wakf Act, 1954. There is a District Sub-Committee of the Wakf Board to superintend the administration of Muslim religious and charitable institution in Alleppey. According to the Kerala Muslim Directory (1960) there are 156 mosques in this District.

POOR HOME, ALLEPPEY

Originally established in May 1944 by the Vanchi Poor Fund, the Poor Home, Alleppey, was taken over by the Alleppey Municipi-

pality in March 1959. The object of the Home is to feed the poor and provide them with shelter to prevent begging. In 1963-64 there were 150 members in the Home. Of these 37 were school-going boys. The inmates are provided with free food and recreational facilities. Jobs are also secured for some of them. There was an endowment of Rs. 1,11,3000 to the credit of the Alleppey branch of the Vanchi Poor Fund with the Vanchi Poor Fund, Travandrum. Its assets include 4 acres of land worth Rs. 80,000, ten buildings worth Rs. 50,000 and utensils and items of furniture worth Rs. 50 003. The annual expenditure of the institution came to Rs. 23,321.87. The expenses were met from the interest accruing on the endowment (Rs 3,339), grant from the Government (Rs. 12,000), and municipal revenues.



सत्यमेव जयते

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation in the State and Union Legislatures

In the General Elections of 1957 and 1960 the Quilon District was split up into 13 constituencies for the purpose of elections to the State legislature. They were Kayamkulam, Karthikappally, Haripad, Mavelikara, Aranmula, Kalluppara Tiruvalla, Chengannur Alleppey, Mararikulam, Shertallai, Arur and Thakazhi. Mavelikara was a double member constituency and all others were single member constituencies. After 1960, the double member constituency of Mavelikara was split up into two constituencies viz. Mavelikara and Pantalam and the Alleppey District came to have 14 constituencies. As per the de-limitation of the constituencies effected in 1963 on the basis of which the General Elections were held in 1965 the District has 14 constituencies as follows: Arur, Shertallai, Mararikulam, Haripad, Alleppey, Ambalapuzha, Kuttanad, Kayamkulam, Tiruvalla Kalluppara, Aranmula, Chengannur, Mavelikara and Pantalam.

As for representation in the Lok Sabha the people of the Alleppey District cast their votes in four Parliamentary Constituencies, viz., Ambalapuzha, Quilon, Mavelikara and Tiruvalla. Of these the Ambalapuzha Parliamentary Constituency fell completely within this district and it consisted of the Assembly Constituencies of Arur, Shertallai, Mararikulam, Alleppey, Karthikappally, Thakazhi, and Haripad. The other three constituencies are inter District ones. The votes of Kayamkulam Assembly Constituency are in the Quilon Parliamentary Constituency, those of Mavelikara, Pantalam and Chengannur in the Mavelikara Parliamentary Constituency and those of Aranmula, Tiruvalla and Kalluppara in the Tiruvalla Parliamentary Constituency.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The major political parties in this District are the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India (Rightist), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (R.S.P.), the Samyukta Socialist Party (formerly) the Praja

Socialist Party, the Muslim League, and the Kerala Congress. The Communist Party (Marxist), and the Kerala Congress did not exist as separate political parties during the elections prior to 1965. They are off-shoots of the Communist Party of India and the Indian National Congress respectively and consist of persons who broke away from the parent organisations. These two parties contested the elections in 1965 and showed themselves to be considerably influential in this District.

We may get an idea of the relative strength of the political parties from a study of the results of the General Elections of 1957, 1960, 1962 and 1965. It may be noted that while elections to both the State Assembly and the Lok Sabha were held in Kerala in 1957, only elections to the State Assembly were held in 1960 and 1965 and the elections to the Lok Sabha in 1965. A mid-term election was rendered necessary in 1960 following the dismissal of the Communist Ministry and the promulgation of President's Rule in July 1959. A similar election to the State Legislature followed in 1965 after the fall of the Sankar Ministry in September 1964 and the promulgation of the President's Rule. In 1957 all the political parties contested the elections independently without entering into electoral adjustments. On the other hand in the elections of 1960 which followed the dismissal of the Communist Government the Congress and the P.S.P. entered into an electoral alliance and they were supported also by the Kerala State Muslim League which had its own followers among the Muslims of the District. The Communist Party and the R.S.P. fought the elections independently. However, as the R.S.P. did not enjoy legal recognition as a State Party in 1960 its candidates were included among the Independents. By the time of the General Elections of 1965 the political situation had changed considerably. Internal dissensions had broken out in the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of India. A section of the Congressmen who broke away from the parent organisation had formed themselves into the Kerala Congress. The extremist section of the Communist Party also left the parent body and formed the new Communist Party (Marxist). The old Praja Socialist Party had transformed itself into the Samyukta Socialist Party (S.S.P.). In the General Elections of 1965 which followed the fall of the Congress Ministry headed by R. Sankar (September 1964), the Indian National Congress contested without entering into any electoral alliance with other parties. The Communist Party of India (Rightist) and the Revolutionary Socialist Party had

formed themselves into a United Front. The Left Communist Party and the S.S.P. had entered into an electoral adjustment for division of seats. The Kerala Congress had entered into an alliance with the Muslim League. A comparative study of the election results of 1957, 1960 and 1965 would throw considerable light on the relative strength of the parties.

In 1957 for the 14 Assembly seats from this District there were altogether 48 candidates in the field-13 Congressmen, 12 Communists 10 Praja Socialists, 4 R.S.P. members and 4 Independents. Out of a total of 840 988 votes in the electoral register 989, 094 valid votes were polled. Out of this the Indian National Congress got 265, 479 votes (38.13%), the Communist Party 301,544 votes (43.33%), the Praja Socialist party 60, 370 votes (8.70%), the R.S.P. 20,113 votes (3.02%) and the Independents 47,588 votes (6.84%). It may be seen that the Communist Party polled the largest percentage of votes, with the Congress coming second and the P.S.P. third. The Communist Party secured 9 seats, the Indian National Congress 4 seats and the Independents one seat. All the other parties drew blank.

In the General Elections of 1960 there were 27 candidates in the field. 13 Congressmen, 1 Communists, 11 Praja Socialist and 2 Independents. There were 875,116 voters in the Electoral Roll and the total number of valid votes polled came to 875,129. Out of this the Indian National Congress got 442,691 votes (52.62%), the Communist Party of India 369,029 votes (42.24%), the P. S. P. 28,433 votes (2.05%) and the Independents 34,976 votes (3.09%). It may be noted that the Indian National Congress polled the largest number of votes with the Communist coming second. Out of the 14 seats the Congress got 8 the Communists 5 and the independent one.

Coming to the General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1957 the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party of India and the Praja Socialist Party contested the seats from the Ambalapuzha Parliamentary Constituency which fall completely within the District. Out of 324, 471 valid votes polled the Congress got 37,016 (42.23%), the Communist Party of India 167, 211 (51.53%) and the Praja Socialist Party. 2,044 (6.24%). The seat was annexed by the Communist Party of India. In the 1962 Election to the Lok Sabha there was a straight contest between the P. S. P. and the Communist Party in the constituency. The Communist candidate polled 170170

votes and the P. S. P. 158,937 votes and the seat was won by the Communist Party. The other three constituencies are inter-district ones and analysis of the votes polled in them is not strictly relevant.

In the mid-term elections of 1968 there was a new alignment of political forces in Kerala. At the time of the dissolution of the Assembly in 1964 there were 4 recognised political parties, viz., the Indian National Congress, the Communist Party of India, the Praja Socialist Party and the Muslim League. A split in the Communist Party had brought into existence in 1965 another party which called itself the Communist Party of India (Marxist). Moreover, the Praja Socialist Party had merged itself with the Socialist Party and the new party that emerged had come to be known as the Samyukta Socialist Party. The fifteen Congress M. L. A. who had broken away from the Congress party in the dissolved Assembly had now formed the Kerala Congress. The number of candidates sponsored by each political party for the 14 seats in the Alleppey District in the election of 1965 was as follows:

Party	No. of candidates
Indian National Congress	14
Kerala Congress	12
Communist Party (Marxist)	9
Communist Party of India	10
Samyukta Socialist Party	3
Others	16

An analysis of the electorate and the votes polled in the elections is given below:-

No. of Seats contested	14
No. of Men Electors	4,44,839
No. of Women Electors	4,70,357
Total No. of Electors	9,15,196
No. of men Electors voted	3,50,981
No. women Electors voted	3,67,004
Total No. of Electors voted	7,17,985
No. of valid votes polled	7,09,926
Percentage of electors voting	77.71

The party-wise figures and Percentages of voting were as follows:-

Party	Total No. of votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	2,15,378	30.34

Kerala Congress	2,17,033	30.57
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1,42,705	20.10
Communist Party of India	48,866	6.88
Samyukta Socialist Party	30,060	4.23
Others	55,884	7.87

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

The Alleppey District has a relatively unimportant place in the field of journalism in Kerala. Only three evening newspapers are published from here. They are the Kerala Bhaskar, the Nidarsanam and the Theeradesa. The Keralabhoomi commenced publication from Alleppey town in 1959, the Nidarsanam in 1963 and the Theeradesa in 1967. Each of these papers has a circulation ranging from 150 to 2000 copies. The newspapers currently in circulation in Alleppey District are mixed with those which are published from outside the District. The figures of circulation of some such newspapers in this District in 1967 are given below:

Newspaper	No. of copies in circulation,
1. Malayala Manorama (Kottayam)	31,405
2. Kerala Kaumudi (Trivandrum)	13,134
3. Mathrubhoomi (Ernakulam)	10,988
4. Keraladhvani (Kottayam)	5,315
5. Malayalarajyam (Quilon)	3,486
6. Deepika (Kottayam)	2,842
7. Kerala Bhushanam (Kottayam)	2,006

No important periodicals are published from Alleppey District except an art journal called the Kerala Sree and some magazines devoted to religion and philosophy published by Christian Missions. The detailed particulars of such journals are given in the Chapter on "Education and Culture".

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS

Brief accounts of some of the leading Voluntary Social Service Organisations in the District are given below:-

SREE RAMAKRISHNA ASHRAMA, TIRUVALLA

This Ashrama functions as a branch of the Ramakrishna Mutt, Belur, West Bengal. It was founded in 1913 by Swami Nirmalanand.

aji of the Belur Mutt who used to pay frequent visits to Travancore with a view to establishing branches of the Ramakrishna Mission in this area. Though the Ashrama in Tiruvalla was started in 1913, it was formally opened in its present premises by the late Sawami Nirmalanandaji only in April 1930. It is mainly a spiritual centre for offering prayers and conducting daily Pujas and worship in the mornings and evenings. It serves also as a place for meditation for people without distinction of caste, creed or colour. The aim of the Ashrama is to spread the ideals of Vedānta as taught by Sree Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda. The Sanyasins of the Ashrama visit neighbouring temples to conduct religious classes and to deliver lectures on Hindu religion. Annual celebrations are held in the Ashrama and in the Sarada Mandir to commemorate the birth days of Sree Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda and Sry Sarala Devi. Other days of religious importance are also observed with due devotion. There is a small religious library and reading room for the use of the public. Bhagavata classes also form a special feature of this Ashrama. Special classes are held every Sunday in order impart religious instruction to the members of the Scheduled Caste.

There are six subsidiary centres of the Ashrama in the erstwhile Central Travancore area and their activities are being guided by the President of the Tiruvalla Ashrama. They are located at Alleppey-Palai, Adoor, Moovattupuzha, Kulathoor and Vallicode. These subsidiary centres also carry on daily worship and pujas and conduct annual celebrations. Each of these has its own religious library to spread the teachings of Sree Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda. Brief accounts of these centres are given below:-

The Yoganada Ashrama, Alleppey, started in 1924, published the "Prabuddha Kerala" feeding monthly for nearly eight years since its inception. Its members did meritorious service in clothing and housing the distressed people in the flood-stricken areas of Kuttanad during the awful days of the floods of 1099 K.E. (1924). The Ashrama garden and building were donated by the late P.G. Gavinda Pillai of the Alleppey bar.

The Sree Ramakrishna Ashram, Palai, was started in 1926 with the help of a few devotees. A Students' Home constructed here with accommodation for fourteen students started functioning from 1964.

The Ramakrishna Ashrama, Adoor, was started in 1931 with generous help of late Sri Khatan Khimji (Empire Coir Works) of Alleppey. The Swamiji who is in charge of this Ashrama gives regular weekly religious lectures to the inmates of the Noornad Leper Asylum.

The Ramakrishna Ashrama, Moovattupuzha, was started in 1930. The Puthempurackel family donated one acre of land for the Ashrama on the top of a hillock adjoining the Thodupuzha river for the purpose of founding the Ashrama.

The Ramakrishna Ashrama, Kulathur, on the Manimalai river was started in 1926. It conducts a Lower Primary School.

The Ramakrishna Ashrama, Vallicode started in 1940, is also a popular institution.

All these ashrams carry on their activities with public contributions to Lime, and help rendered by devotees from time. They also carry on general propaganda in the cause of Harijan uplift through weekly discourses and prayer meetings.

Sri Ramakrishna Asrama, Haripad

The Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Haripad is an independent institution and as such it does not function as a branch of the Belur Mutt. The first institution of its kind in Kerala, it was established in September 1912 by Srimat Swami Nirmalanandaji, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. The former had come to Travancore in February 1911 at the invitation of the Ramakrishna Religious Association to celebrate the birthday of Sri Ramakrishna. The Swami's talks and lectures and above all, the ideal life he led, made a deep impression on those who came into contact with him. The public wanted to have an Ashrama at Haripad. The land was donated by Sri Venkitasubramoniya Iyer, who was the first Bramachari of the Ramakrishna order in the whole of Kerala. Later on he was blessed with Mantra Diksha by Swami Brahmananda, the President of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission. The public willingly gave money and help and thus the Asrama became an accomplished fact in the course of a year.

The Ashram is situated in an area surrounded by water and land. Green paddy fields and coconut palms add to the beauty of the site. The Asrama has been functioning vigorously since its inception. Pujas and Bhajans are regularly conducted here. All the festivals

of every religion are duly honoured. The hall adjacent to the shrine serves the purpose of meditation for eager aspirants. Discourses on spiritual topics are given on important occasions.

The Asrama has been instrumental in spreading education among the people of the locality. It conducts a Primary School and a Library. The latter is named after Swami Nirmalaandaji, the founder of the Asram. From the very beginning the Asrama has been giving free medical aid to the public. A regular Dispensary was opened under its auspices on September 9 1956 in one of the rooms of the Asrama. It has developed into a Hospital with a separate building of its own with effect from March 3, 1959. An additional ward was opened here on January 1, 1964 by Pattom Thanu Pillai the then Governor of Punjab, in connection with the centenary of Swami Vivekananda. The hospital caters to the needs of the local public. Harijans are benefited most from its activities. It may be interesting to note that long before the Entry Temple Proclamation (1936) the Asrama was open to all sections of people, irrespective of caste. Every one had freedom to participate in its spiritual and philanthropic works. The Haripad Asrama has extended its activities to neighbouring areas also. It has a branch at Muttam five miles away and another at Kayamkulam, about 9 miles away from the main centre. The branches also are actively working on the lines of the central Asrama.

GANDHI SMARAK NIDHI

The main activity of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi in this District is Village Development work carried on through the 'Grams Seva' Centres at Mararikulam and Mannar. The Mararikulam Centre was started in April 1958, and the Mannar Centre in November 1958. It may be mentioned that a Leprosy Control Clinic had been started earlier at Mararikulam by the Gandhi Memorial Foundation as one of the nine Pilot Centres set up in the country for the control of leprosy. The Grama Seva Centre was started here to assist the Clinic in its attempts to raise the standard of living of the people, and to improve the sanitation and general condition of the area. Since its inception the Centre has successfully organised Khadi and Village industries like coir spinning, soap making out of non-edible oil, and handpounding of rice, set up Women's and children's Club, started a full-fledged Nursery School enjoying Government assistance and recognition, trained batches of girls in music and dance, encour-

ged kitchen gardening and carried on mass education in sanitation and public health. It has two acres of land in which a block of building has been put up.

The Mannar Centre has developed as a major Khadi production centre of Kerala State. Village industries such as soap making, hand-pounding, oil pressing, bathmaking, screwpine mat weaving, and metal works have been organised here. A Nursery School is functioning well. Women's organisations have also been set up to work for the all-round welfare of women. In both the Centre a trained and full-time staff is being maintained. The Centres are assisted by the public, the N.E.S. Blocks, the Khadi Commission, etc, and they have developed into major centres of rural activity.

Mention may also be made of the Tatwa Pracher Centre Alleppey, started in 1957. It maintains a Gandhian Library and Reading Room, and carries the message of Mahatma Gandhi to all sections of the people through regular study circles, meetings, camps and Patras.

BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ

The Alleppey District branch of Bharat Sevak Samaj began functioning in 1954. In the beginning the work of the Samaj was confined to conducting camps, discussion classes, etc. with a view to making the public realise the importance of the developmental programmes. The activities developed much since 1958 as a result of which the following institutions came into existence.

1. Welfare extension Project (Urban)
2. A Slum Service Project
3. A Night Shelter
4. Two Lok Karya Kshetras

The Welfare Extension Project (Urban) is situated in the Palace ward, Alleppey. The project covers an area consisting of 1200 families and it is having a programme which caters to the needs of children, women and youth. Two nursery classes are conducted by the Project of which one is in the English medium and the other in the Malayalam medium. A popular craft class intended for women is also being held. Two ladies clubs, a Bala Samajam and a youth organisation have also been organised. The other activities of the project include seminars, agricultural development programme

discussion classes, free tuition classes, dance class, family planning, programme etc. Occasionally training in home management is also given to women.

The Slum Service Project is run for the purpose of improving the social and cultural development of the people of the area. It is situated in the market ward which is inhabited mostly by fisher folk. Nursery and craft classes, Bala Samaj, free tuition class, medical and extension work are the main activities. The children of the nursery class are given mid day meals. Sanitation campaigns are regularly organised at this centre. Distribution of Hundi Boxes is another activity undertaken to encourage the habit of saving. Free medical aid is also rendered at the project.

The Night shelter is intended for the homeless including pavement dwellers, shoe shine boys, rickshaw puller etc. On an average twenty to twenty five people are admitted as inmates in the shelter on payment of 10 paise per head per day.

Two Lok Karya Kshetras are also functioning in the District, one at Kanjikuzhi and the other at Chengannur. Relief services are rendered when necessity therefore arises. Plan Information Centres are conducted with a view to giving publicity to Five Year Plans. Film shows, public meetings, dramas etc. are also organised. Noon meal programme is also carried on with the assistance received from the Catholic Relief service in the form of food stuffs. 43 nursery schools run by the B.S.S. in the District are benefited by the programme.

There are 68 recognised B.S.S. Units in the District. The Chairman is the head of the District and he is assisted in his work by local committee. Block level committees are also functioning.

INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, ALLEPPEY

The Indian Red Cross Society, Alleppey was established about the year 1955. In 1965 it had 100 members in its rolls. It had an income of about Rs. 1200. One of its main achievements is that 6 batches consisting of 15 students each were given training in first-aid and home nursing by raising the necessary funds from the public. The Society has a proposal to start an artificial limb centre under its auspices and the necessary steps are being taken. Also there is an idea to start a General Nursing Training Centre in order to impart training extending over a period of 4 years.

Y.M.C.A., ALLEPPEY

The Y.M.C.A., Alleppey, started functioning in 1904 and it was formally affiliated to the National Council of the Y-M-C.As. of India Burma and Ceylon in 1906. The building in which the Y.M.C.A. is accommodated, the first of its kind in the District, was opened in 1913. A new wing was added to the residential quarters of the Y.M.C.A. in 1934. The need for extending the premises of the Association was keenly felt and a plot of land, 25 cents in extent, adjacent to the old premises, was acquired for the purpose. A new building (Hostel) is now under construction in this site at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,25,000. In 1964-65 the Y.M.C.A. Hostel provided accommodation for 48 persons. The Association had 278 members on its rolls. The Y.M.C.A., Alleppey, takes an active part in the social activities of the town as well as of the District and it is represented by its General Secretary in many of the functioning at the district level.

NADVATHUL ISLAM, VADUTHALA

The Nadvathul Islam, Vaduthala, is a charitable organisation established in 1938. Situated in Mattathilbhagam Panchayat of Shertallai taluk, its aim is to open educational and philanthropic institutions such as Madrasas, Schools, Colleges, Libraries, Industrial Training Centres, Poo Homes, Orphanages, etc in the area. It runs an Upper Primary School with Lower Primary sections, an Arabic College and an Orphanage with 45 inmates. Grant-in-aid is given by the Government of Kerala to the Orphanage and to the School. The expenditure of the association is also met from donations and subscriptions from well-wishers. Credit facilities are also made available by the organisation to deserving persons with a view to helping them to start small scale and cottage industries. It had 72 members on its rolls in 1963-64. In the same year the Nadvathul Islam had an income of Rs. 16,289.48 and an expenditure of 11,764.95. The expenditure of the Orphanage came to Rs. 6,893.54, of U.P. School to Rs. 1,247.03 and of the Arabic College to Rs. 2,633.29. The assets of the institution worth Rs. 49,125.34.

ST. PHILOMENA'S ORPHANAGE, MALLAPPALLY

The St. Philomena's Orphanage, Mallappally, was established in December in 1943 with a view to rendering help to destitute orphaned children. It is run as a charitable institution, the expenses being met partly from Government grant and partly from funds made available by the Archbishop of Changanacherry who is its manager.

In 1964-65 there were 60 inmates in this institution, all of them being girls. The girls were being given schll education and were also being taught Typewriting, Sewing, Music, Embroidery work and Home Science. In 1963-64 the total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the Orphanage came to Rs. 12,600,

NAZARATH ASRAMAM, OTHARA

The Nazarath Asramam, Othara, established in August 1962 is under the management of the Knanaya Syrian Diocese. Situated in a five acre plot, it provided accommodation for 20 children in 1965-65. All the boys attend school and are given all facilities for study. In 1963-64 the Orphanage had assets worth Rs. 45,036.97 and an income and expenditure of Rs. 9,086.34 and Rs. 4,049.37 respectively. It gets an annual grant from the Government of Kerala through the Inspector General of Prisons.

THE YOUNG MEN'S READING ROOM AND NIGHT SCHOOL, TUMPOLI

The Young Men's Reading Room and Night School, Tumpoli, was established in March 23, 1947 with a view to promoting social education and adult literacy. Its administration is vested in the hands of a Managing Committee of not less than 21 members elected by the Annual general body meeting. The institution is housed in a building of its own in a 10½ cents site on the Alleppey-Sherattalai road. In addition to running Library and Reading Room it runs also a Sports Club, a Kalasamithi and a Study Circle. In 1963-64 it had assets worth Rs. 16,641.32. During the same year it had an income of Rs. 1,086.91 including grants from the Central Social Welfare Board, the Kerala Government and the Alleppey Municipality and an expenditure of Rs. 10,787.18. More than a thousand persons were benefited during the year by activities of the Reading Room and Night School.

THE CRESCENT SERVICE SOCIETY AND CRESCENT ORPHANAGE, ALLEPPEY

The Crescent Service Society, Alleppey, was established in November 1959. Its aim is to organise orphanages, rescue homes and industrial and educational establishments with a view to ameliorating the social and economic condition of the less privileged sections of the Muslim community. The control and management of the affairs of the Society are vested in a Board of Directors consisting

of a President, two Secretaries, a Treasurer and 11 members. Any person who donates Rs. 10/- is qualified to become a member of the Society and he has also to pay an annual contribution of Rs. 36/- towards its expenses. In 1963-64 the Society had assets worth Rs. 27,457.87 and its income and expenditure came to Rs. 746 and Rs. 577.86 respectively. The Crescent Service Society, Alleppey, conducts three important institutions viz, the Crescent Hand-pounding of Paddy Industry, Alleppey, the Crescent Leather Tannery Unit, Alleppey Orphanage.

The most important of the institutions run by the Society is the Crescent Orphanage. It was established on April 1, 1960. In 1963-64 there were 55 inmates in this institution. The Orphanage had assets worth Rs. 4,261. During the same year the income and expenditure of the Orphanage came to Rs. 9,835.85 and Rs. 10,818.63 respectively. The institution got a sum of Rs. 4,680 from the State Government through the Inspector-General of Prisons.

THE ALLEPPEY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, ALLEPPEY

The Alleppey Women's Association, Alleppey was established in August 1955. Its aims are to impart adult education to the poor and illiterate women, to hold classes in music and dance for young girls, to give free lunch, books and clothing to poor and deserving students, to start Orphanages and Nursery Schools, to give medical aid to poor women and children, to start classes in cooking, etc. etc. All women residing in Alleppey town are entitled to become members of the Association by paying an annual subscription of Rs. 2/. A Committee of 13 members including the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer is to manage its affairs. In 1964-65 the Association had 80 members on its rolls. During the period since its inception it had done much useful work in the cause of the social uplift of women. It conducts Nursery and Balwadi classes for the benefit of the poor children of the locality. Cutting and tailoring are taught in the Craft Class run by the Association. More than 50 persons are benefited by this programme every year. The Association also runs a Ladies Hostel which provides accommodation for 24 working women. The members of the Association also attend to other items of social work such as poor feeding, financial aid to poor students for the purchase of books, thatching the houses of the poor, etc. They also visit the slum areas nearby and clean their surroundings with the help of the B.S.S. worker.

Film shows are arranged in the area with the idea of popularising Family Planning techniques. In 1963-64 the Association had an income and expenditure of Rs. 1,433.96. It received an annual grant of Rs. 500 from the Central Social Welfare Board.

AKHILA BHARATHA VANITHA SAMAJAM, KAYAMKULAM

The Akhila Bharatha Vanitha Samajam, Kayamkulam, was established in 1954 with the object of ameliorating the condition of the women and children of the locality and neighbouring villages. It is the aim of the Association to run maternity centres, craft and industrial training centres, libraries and reading rooms, destitute homes, etc. Any women paying 25 paise per mensem can become an ordinary member of the Samjaam while those contributing between Rs. 250 and Rs. 500 are enrolled as life members. The affairs of the Samajam are managed by an executive Committee consisting of not more than 11 and not less than 7 members elected by the General Body, possibly from among the life members. In 1963-64 the Samajam had 109 members on its rolls. The Vanitha Samjam, Kayamkulam runs a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the town. It is under the charge of a Midwife who visits ten houses every day and offers advice to children and expectant mothers. Medicines, vitamin pills and articles of food are distributed free of cost from the centre to poor children and destitute women. The Samajam also runs the Maulana Azad Nursery School, Kayamkulam. There were 80 pupils in this school in 1963-64. There is also a Craft Training Centre under the Samajam. Twenty-five students are given training in the centre in needle work, garment making cutting and tailoring. The Library and Reading Room under the Samjam had a collection of 1,000 books. The Samajam receives grants from the Centre Social Welfare Board, the Municipal Council the Health Services Department and the Education Department of the State. In 1963-64 it got Rs. 6,780 by way of grants from the above sources. Its total assets during the year were worth to Rs. 16,200.32.

KASTURBA MEMORIAL LADIES' CLUB, PUNNAPURA

The Kasturba Memorial Ladies' Club, Punnapra started functioning in June 1950. It conducts a Nursery School, a tailoring class and a music class. Instruction is also given in book binding. In 1963-64 there were 300 members in the Club. Its income was Rs. 1,350 and expenditure Rs. 1,290. The Club receives an annual grant from the Central Social Welfare Board and also from the N.E.S. Block.

SARVODAYA MAHILA SAMAJAM, MEZHUVELI

The Sarvodaya Mahila Samajam, Mezhuveli, was established in October 1954 with a view to aiding in the uplift of the poor women of the locality. Its affairs are managed by a Bharana Samithi consisting of 15 members elected by the general body meeting of the members of the Samajam. In 1963-64 it had 55 members on its rolls. The Samajam has a midwife in its service in order to be of help to the local women. It conducts a tailoring class and a Balwadi. The latter is intended for about 30 children. The Samajam had an income of Rs. 3,485.85 and an expenditure of Rs. 3,344.18 in 1963-64.

ULLANNUR DESIYA VANITHA SAMAJAM, KULANADA

The Samajam was established in December 1957 in order to do social work among the poor women of the locality. It was conducting a Nursery School and a Cutting and Tailoring School. It had also started a Fibre Industry Unit. In 1963-64 there were 110 members in the Samjam. In the same year it had assets worth Rs. 1,750 and an income and expenditure of Rs. 2,034.64 and Rs. 1,890.59 respectively. It gets an annual grant from the Social Welfare Board.

MODEL MAHILA SAMAJAM, VALLAMKULAM

The Model Mahila Samajam, Vallamkulam, (Eraviperur village) was established in 1954. In 1964 it had 150 members on its rolls. It conducts a Weaving and Tailoring class, a Soap making Unit, a Balwadi class and a Maternity Centre. The Samajam owns a 19 cent plot in which there are two buildings, a park and a kitchen. In 1963-64 it had an income and expenditure of Rs. 5,000. It receives an annual grant from the State Social Welfare Board.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Alleppey (Ambalapuzha Taluk) (9°25' North Latitude and
76°15' East Longitude)

Situated on the National Highway 47, Alleppey, the District headquarters is an important commercial town of Kerala. It has an area of 18.6 sq. miles and a population of 1,38,813 (1961 census). The town extends up to Sanatanapuram in the south and Tumboli in the north. Till the latter half of the 18th century, Alleppey was a mere jungle infested by jackals and monkeys. The master-mind that worked behind the transformation of Alleppey into a commercial port was that of Raja Kesava Das, the illustrious Dewan of Travancore during the reign of the Dharma Raja. It is said that after clearing the jungle an extensive survey of the sea coast was conducted by competent men under the personal supervision of Raja Kesava Das. Three miles off Alleppey was found a ten mile-long mud bank and the portion of the sea between the shore and the mud bank afforded splendid anchorage to ships. The port took shape about 1762. Canals were dug to link the port with the lakes and rivers and store houses were constructed for the storage of cargo. The Dewan caused three ships to be built of teak wood, which in due course maintained constant commercial contact with Bombay and Calcutta. Merchants and traders from Bombay, Cutch and Sind came and settled at Alleppey. Textile dealers from Tinneveli also established themselves at the place.

The development of Alleppey since 1762 was phenomenal. The commercial activities of the town engaged the attention of Velu Thampi Dalawa in the early years of 19th century. Roads were constructed and markets opened. Rani Parvati Bai improved the port and appointed an European Commercial Agent there in 1816 for the better administration of trade. The Light House was built in 1862 by Captain Hugh Crawford. Its beaming light is visible from a distance of 16 miles. For the passage of cargo a pier nearly 1,000 ft. long was also built. From the High Ranges, tea, rubber and other hill produce flew into Alleppey port for shipment through Kottayam, lying not far from the eastern side of the Vembanad lake. Surrounded by sea and backwaters, the accessibility of the port to its

hinterland is enhanced by the unique system of canals and roadways. The navigable canals within the town are . (1) Commercial Canal, (2) Wadai Canal, (3) the link Canal between the above two canals at their eastern and western ends, (4) Punnamada Kayal, (5) the Pallathuruthi rivers, (6) Ambalapuzha Canal. The banks of the first four canals are the seats of many industrial and business establishments. It is common spectacle to see the picturesque country crafts laden with agricultural produce and coir goods gliding along the canals and waterways. Moreover, the proximity of Alleppey to the extensive Vembanad lake stretching up to Cochin affords immense water frontage to merchants for transport of goods.

A peculiar feature of Alleppey town is that it is a vertiable maze of bridges. The reason for this is that the Wadai Canal and the Commercial Canal run through the heart of the town. It is the presence of the twin canals and innumerable bridges that have perhaps given to Alleppey the appellation "Venice of the East". The bridges have also their names such as Irumpu Palam, Savacotta Palam, etc. One of the bridges, the "Cullen Bridge" is named after the British Resident Mr. Cullen who died at Alleppey in 1862.

Alleppey has earned fame in the commercial world as the world's chief supplier of coir. The manufacture of coir yarn, coir mats and mattings is being extensively carried out in and around the place. Introduced by a European called James Darragh in 1859 this industry has taken deep root in Alleppey and today of the 167 coir factories in the State about 130 are located in the District of Alleppey and a large number of these factories cluster round the Alleppey town. Coir and coir products are being exported to almost all ports of the world from here. Apart from coir industry, the crushing of copra and oil seeds constitutes yet another important industry in Alleppey. Next in importance is the textile industry. A spinning mill with a spindlage of 25,000 is proposed to be started at Komalapuram near the town. Alleppey has a pre-eminent place in Kerala's film industry. The Udaya Studio, located 3 miles north of the town on the National Highway, is one of the pioneers in the production of motion pictures. In fact, about 50% of the industries of the District are located in the town and its suburbs.

Alleppey is said to be the home of the first Post Office when postal communication was introduced in Travancore in 1857. It is the centre of a large net-work of inland water transport services.

The boat jetty is a busy part of the town. The State Transport Bus Stand is also located nearby. A public market is located within the Municipality and it is used by a large number of persons every day. The Pazhavangadi (old bazar), the Puthanangadi (new bazar), the Gujarathi Street and Mullackal are the busy centres of the town.

Apart from the Municipal Sathrom, the town has a first class Rest House overlooking the maidan near the sea to cater to the needs of tourists. A well maintained beach of which Alleppey can well be proud of, attracts a lot of persons in the evening.

Like any other town in Kerala Alleppey is also in the forefront in the sphere of education-general as well as technical. Apart from 18 Primary Schools and 6 Nursery Schools, there are 10 High Schools and two first grade colleges in the town viz., the S.D. College, Alleppey and the St. Joseph's College for Women. Of the four Medical Colleges in the State one is set up in the southern suburb of Alleppey. Originally run by the Turavur Tirumalal Devaswom, it has since been taken over by Government. The town has a District Hospital and a Women and Childrens Hospital. In addition it has a Government Ayurvedic Hospital and Homoeopathic Dispensary. The civic affairs of the town are managed by the Municipality which had its origin in the last decade of the 19th century.

Situated in the heart of Alleppey town is the Mullackal Bhagavathi temple where the famous chirappu festival is celebrated in the month of December. It lasts for 41 days commencing from the first day of Vrischikam, November-December. The last eleven days are particularly important. There is also another 10 days festival in this temple which ends on the Puja eduppu day. Near the Mullackal temple is a shrine of Mariamman. Another important temple is the Kitanganparambu temple where the chirappu festival is celebrated on a grand scale. According to tradition the deities of temples are sisters. The Kalarcode Mahadevar temple and the Pazhayavidu Bhagavathi temple are also important Hindu temples of the town. Yet another temple of importance is the Tiruvambadi Sri Krishna temple where Vavu Bali is performed by large numbers of people on New Moon Day in Karkatakam, July-August. The old and new Tirumala Devaswam temples belonging to the Gowda Saraswatas are also notable institutions of the place. One of the most important

churches in the town is the Mount Carmel Cathedral. It is a Latin Catholic Church, It was established in 1809. Yet another important church is the Holy Cross Church belonging to the Syro-Malabar Rite. It was established in 1400 A.D. In Alleppey town is found a Jain temple, the only one now existing in the Travancore area. Near the Dutch Square in the town is an old Mosque.

A major tourist attraction in Alleppey is the Boat Race organised every year in connection with the Independence Day in August for the award of the Prime Minister's Trophy. This colourful water carnival is held at the Punnamadakayal or Vattakayal and it attracts thousands of spectators from all parts of the country. The gaily decorated boats of different shapes participate in the race. The first of these regattas was held in December 1952 in the presence of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who during his visit to the State was welcomed at Munro Turuth by a large number of country boats and escorted to Alleppey. The Prime Minister's Trophy Boat race held every year in August thereafter commemorates this event. A Rolling Trophy made of silver representing a replica of a snake boat, presented by the late Prime Minister is awarded to the winning boat in the race every year.

A premier port of northern Travancore as once Alleppey was the maritime importance of the sea port considerably dwindled owing to its nearness to Cochin which in course of time, rose into prominence as an international port on the west coast. The agreement reached by Travancore with the Governments of Madras and Cochin towards the close of the 19th century in regard to Cochin Harbour set limitations to bring about any improvement on Alleppey port. Merchants found it more advantageous to take goods to British Cochin and other British Indian ports. This diversion of trade paralysed the ports of Travancore especially Alleppey. As yet the town continues to be an important commercial centre of Kerala.

Ambalapuzha (Ambalapzha Taluk) 9° 20' North Latitude and
76° 20' East Longitude)

Once the capital of the ancient principality of Champakasseri, Ambalapuzha is a village situated about 10 miles south of Alleppey, the District headquarters. It was for some time the headquarters of the Taluk of the same name, but Alleppey soon took its place.

Although Ambalapuzha counts little to-day as a political or administrative centre, it still continues to be famous throughout Kerala as the "Dwaraka of the South" on account of its ancient temple dedicated to Sri Krishna. The Kuttanad area at one time belonged to the Ambalapuzha temple and was administered by an oligarchy of Nambuthiri Brahmins who were the temple trustees. They held their council and transacted the affairs of the State in the mantrasala of the temple. But with the lapse of years power passed from the oligarchy into the hands of an individual and thus was established a Brahmin royal family called the house of Champakasseri which ruled over Kuttanad until the principality was annexed by Martanda Varma and made part of Travancore. The attack on the Ambalapuzha lines was led by Rama Iyen Dalawa assisted by Captain De' Lannoy with his artillery. The Raja himself was captured alive in his palace while absorbed a game of chess. He was removed to Trivandrum first and then to his ancestral home at Kudamalur (Kottayam District) and granted a liberal pension. His descendants still live in that locality.

The Krishna temple at Ambalapuzha is one of the most important temples of Kerala. The site is said to have been selected by the sage Vilvamangalam Swamiyar. The story goes that one day when the Chempakasseri Raja was taking his usual walk with the Swamiyar he heard the musical note of a flute from a place which was devoid of any human habitation. The Swamiyar then told the Raja that it came from Lord Krishna and that the place was the ideal site for the erection of a Vishnu temple. Accordingly a temple was built at the spot and an auspicious day was fixed for the installation of the idol. But the image made for the purpose was found to be defective. The Raja's desire to have a pure image was fulfilled in an unexpected manner.

The present idol of Krishna installed in the temple is, according to tradition, one of the three which Sri Krishna himself handed over to Arjuna for worship, the other two being those at Guruvayur and Trippunithura. The following story is told in connection with the praitshita of the idol. Vilvamangalam Swamiyar informed the chief of Chempakasseri, who was unhappy over the unfitness of the first idol that the idol suitable for the newly constructed temple was the one which was worshipped in the Karinkulam temple in

Kurchi in the territory of the Tekkumkur Raja who was a sworn enemy of Chempakasseri. A secret plot was hatched to get possession of the image. The Chempakasseri Raja's men succeeded in removing the image from within the enemy's territory. They reached Chempakulam the same night and temporarily halted there. The next day, after the performance of the morning puja, the bimbam was removed to Ambalapuzha in great pomp and splendour. It is in commemoration of this event which is said to have taken place in 760 K.E. (1584-85 A.D.) that the boat regatta (Vallamkali) at Chempakulam is celebrated every year on Mulam day in Chingam (August-September). During the outbreak of fire in 1095 K.E. (1919-20), the bimbam was temporarily removed from there and kept in safe custody for a day. The re-consecration took place on the following day which happened to be of Tiru Onam asterism. It is on the corresponding day in Meenam (March-April) every year that the utsavam in the temple draws to a close.

In its architectural features the Ambalapuzha temple conforms to the typical Kerala style. As noted earlier, the utsavam, is celebrated in the month of Meenam (March-April). One of the important items of the festival is Natakasala Sadya, which is said to have been instituted by the Raja of Chempakasseri. It is said that Vilvamangalam swamiyer saw the Lord serving food to the temple dependants during the festival since they had been inadequately fed. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Raja, he ordered a special feast to be conducted for the Nairs alone. This is now conducted on a grant scale on the eighth and ninth days of the utsavam. Religious discourses, Tullal, Kathakali and Velakali performances are held on the occasion of the utsavam. The Erattakulangara temple near Ambalapuzha is connected with the Krishna temple as Arat procession of the latter is held here.

Another important ceremony in the Ambalapuzha temple is the Pallipana which takes place once in twelve years. This lasts for fifteen days. During this time the story of the Mahabharata is recited. Tullals are also performed by the Velans. The origin of this ceremony dates back to the times of Puradam Tirunal-one of the Rajas of Chempkasseri, who surrendered his kingdom to Lord Krishna and ruled it as the agent of the deity. He instituted Pallipana ceremony to ensure the Welfare of his subjects. The

Ambalapuzha temple has also won immortal renown as the scene of the introduction by Kunjan Nambiar of the dance recital known as Ottam Tullal. A memorial to Kunjan Nambiar has been erected by the Government (1967) on the eastern side of the temple.

The Ambalapuzha temple is famous throughout Kerala for the *palwayasam*, a milk porridge of exceptional sweetness prepared in very large quantity and offered to the deity. It is afterwards distributed to people who pay for it as well as to those entitled to it by custom. The demand for the *payasam* from among the devotees is so great that advance booking for the same has now been introduced with a view to ensuring proper supply.

Attached to this temple there is also a small structure called the Guruvayur temple. It is so named because the image of Krishna in the Guruvayur temple was kept there in the 18th century for a time in order to prevent it from falling into the hands of Tipu Sultan. A well near the temple is still called the "Guruvayur well".

In nearby Kakazham there is a mosque. The Chandanakudam festival is held here every year and it draws huge crowds of spectators. Another important local celebration is the Utram Vallamkali in Kanjipadam (Ambalapuzha village) held every year in Chingam (August-September). The Harijans are the main participants in this festival.

Aranmula (Chengannur Taluk) (9° 15' North Latitude and 76° 40' East Longitude)

A village in Chengannur Taluk situated on the banks of the river Pamba, Aranmula is noted for its ancient temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, its colourful Snake Boat Race held in Chingam (August-September) and the Aranmula *kannadi* or metal mirror. One of the one hundred and eight *divyadesams* or holy shrines held in special veneration by the Vaishnavites, the Aranmula temple has for its deity Vishnu in the form of Parthasarathi, i.e., Sri Krishna in the guise of Arjuna's charioteer. Tradition has it that the installation of the image of the deity in this temple was performed by Arjuna himself. It was, however, originally consecrated at Nilakkal, in those days a populous village of Ranni pakuthi. The menace of wild animals made the place uninhabitable in course

of time, but the people who were devoted to their God and His temple, were unwilling to leave the locality. However, the danger from wild life grew in dimensions and compelled the people to desert the place. But the God did not stay behind his devotees. He took the guise of a Brahmachari. Some men of the lower castes living at Nilakkal are said to have made a raft with six bamboos for the Lord to cross the Pamba and he reached a place about a mile to the west of Kil Trikkovil. Attracted by a small light at a distance he went towards it and spent the night there. The place is even now called Vilakkumatam. He then returned to Kil Trikkovil and persuaded the people to build a temple at the place where it now stands.

The famous snake-boat regatta on the Pamba held annually at Aranmula on the day of Utrattathi asterism in connection with the Onam festival in Chingam (August-September) is said to commemorate the above mentioned crossing of the river by the God. The deity is supposed to be in all the boats that take part in the regatta and all of them are expected to arrive at their destination simultaneously. There is thus no element of competition in the Aranmula regatta as in other regattas held in this District and elsewhere. The race is not conducted to win any trophy or prize and as such there is neither any winner nor loser. The crew regard the occasion as one for rejoicing and merry-making and cheerfully row up and down the river to the tune of songs. Even though the festival is of Hindu origin and is associated with the Aranmula temple, it is an all-communal affair and participants include members of all classes and communities living in and around Aranmula. The festival is now being organised under the auspices of the Palli Oda Seva Sanghom, a popular organisation of the boat owners. It constitutes a national festival for the people of Central Travancore and special boats and buses ply to carry the people to witness the event. During the races the banks of the river on either side for a distance of about two miles would be one seething mass of humanity. In recent years the festival attracts spectators from all parts of the country and even from abroad. The local people celebrate the day by feasting and merry-making. The 'Vallasadya' is an important vazhipadu (offering) in the temple.

The snake-boats at the Aranmula regatta present an imposing spectacle. They are of extraordinary shape, with one end curving

upward and about 100' long. With the front portion of the boat tapering gradually and the rear towering to a height of nearly 20' the boats resemble snakes with their hoods raised. A 150-crew, including oarsmen, singers and rudder-keepers man each boat which is gaily decorated for the occasion. The occupants carry banners and ornamental umbrellas of silk and gold. Nearly thirty boats participate in a regatta. Each Kara enters its own snake-boat and takes part in the festival without any distinction of caste or creed.

Aranmulaippan (the Lord of Aranmula, as the deity is locally, known) is credited with a great partiality for children and children's pranks and one of the favourite ways of propitiating Him is to give free oil baths to children and to feast them afterwards. People who are childless are known to do this as an offering to the deity. The lighting of the children's beacon in front of the temple, towards the middle of January, is an annual festival which attracts people from all parts of the locality. Aranmula abounds in arecanut palms and parties of children go about singing and merry-making and collect the dry leaves of the palms, for about a month prior to festival day. These are heaped in front of the temple and ignited with a lighted wick brought from inside the Sanctum Sanctorum with due pomp and ceremonial. The little children dance and sing round and round the roaring flames while delighted crowds of elders look on and enjoy the scene. The river ghat in front of the Aranmula temple abounds in fish which are considered sacred. They are not allowed to be disturbed or caught by visitors and one of the modes of propitiating the deity is to feed these sacred fish on a mixture of rice and scraped kernel of the coconut. Mothers who are unable to breast-feed their infants often do this to get over the defect.

The Aranmula temple represents the Kerala style of architecture. The inner shrine has been roofed with copper plates out of donations raised from the public on the occasion of an annual boat race. There are four mural paintings on the walls of the Sri Kovil. Each of them measures 63 " in length and 50 " in height, painted in pairs on either side of the facade of the central shrine.

Aranmula has derived its fame also from the famous mirror of the village popularly known as Aranmula kanniadi. Among the many curios of the world it deserves a high place. The interesting story behind the origin of this handcraft has been told in the

Chapter on "Industries". The Department of Industries and Commerce runs a Training Centre at Aranmula in order to impart training to select students in the production of the metal mirror.

There is a Satram at Aranmula in order to provide accommodation to tourists. It is under the control of the Revenue Department. The Satram and its premises are thronged to capacity by people from all parts of the State on the occasion of the Snake Boat Race in Chingam (August-September).

ARATHUNKAL (SHERTALLAI TALUK)

One of the most important pilgrim centres of the Christians in Kerala, Arathunkal is the seat of the famous St. Andrews Church established by the Portuguese missionaries in 1951 A.D. The church popularly known as St. Sebastian Church stands on the spot where there was previously another church dedicated to St. Thomas. The St. Andrews Church belongs to the Latin Catholic Diocese of Alleppey and is situated about five miles away from Shertallai town facing the sea coast. It was built with the assistance of the local chieftains of Muthedath and with the alms of the local Christians and Hindus. The first Vicar of St. Andrews Church was Gaspar Pais a Jesuit. Arathunkal was the scene of the labours of the Jesuit Missionaries in the 16th and 17th centuries. Father Giacomo Fenicio of Capua (Italy) who was Vicar here from 1584 to 1602 is called the 'Apostle of Arathunkal' as he rendered valuable services to the church. He died in the St. Andrews church in 1632 and was laid to rest at the place, as is evidenced by an epitaph which is preserved in the church yard. The St. Andrews church is today held in great veneration by Catholics all over the State and even outside. The feast of St. Sebastian held here every year on January 20 attracts a large concourse of Christian pilgrims. A noteworthy fact about this church is that till recently the Hindu pilgrims returning from the Sastha shrine at Sabarimala used to come to Arathunkal take bath in the erstwhile tank in the church premises and formally conclude their penance.

Bharanikavu (Mavelikara Taluk) 9° 15' North Latitude and 76° 36' East Longitude)

Bharanikavu, situated about five miles to the northeast of Mavelikara is the seat of a Buddhist shrine. The Buddha image

here is very elegantly executed and is still in an excellent state of preservation. The total height of the image including the pedestal is about two feet. The upper cloth, more especially the many-folded piece passing over the left shoulder and lying flat on the chest stands out prominent in the image. The usual *ushaisha* and *jwala* on the head distinguish the Bharanikavu Buddha from the images of Jaina Tirthankaras. There is also a Bhagavathi temple at the place and the annual festival held here in connection with Bharany in Meenam (March-April) attracts enormous crowd. In nearby Vettikode is a famous Naga shrine (Serpent Grove.) The nagas of Mannarasala in Karthikapally Taluk are said to have had their origin from Vettikode. The Ayilyam festival in Kannai (September-October) draws enormous crowd to the place from all neighbouring places.

CHAMPAKULAM (KUTTANAD TALUK)

Champakulam, situated on the Pamba river is a place of considerable historical importance and tourist interest. The historic Vallamkali (boat regatta) held here in the Pamba on Mulam day in Chingam (August-September) every year attracts huge crowd from all parts of Kerala. As stated earlier, it is held in commemoration of the episode involving the idol of Krishna which was being carried from Kurichi by the Chempakasseri Raja's men for consecration in the Ambalapuzha temple in 760 K.E. (1584-85). The sun had already set when the idol reached Champakulam and hence it rested there for the night in a Syrian Catholic house called Mappill-asserry. The Raja of Chempakasseri came to the place and paid his respects to the idol. On the next day it was carried to Ambalapuzha in a procession of boats in which both the Hindus and Christians of Kuttanad participated. The annual Vallamkali at Champakulam commemorates this event. It has become almost a national festival for the people of Kuttanad, irrespective of caste or religion. The festival is organised by a local committee consisting of officials and non-officials with the District Collector as Chairman and the Tahsildar of Kuttanad Taluk as Convener. The Kerala Government and the Travancore Devaswam Board contribute towards the expenses of the festival while the Panchayats in Kuttanad area collect a good amount by way of local subscription. It may also be mentioned that Champakulam Vallamkali is the first in a series held in the District every year in the month of Chingam (August-September). Several

types of boats such as Chundan, Irnttukuthi, Veppu, and Churulan take part in the regatta. Each boat is known by a particular name, e.g., 'Napolean', 'Parthasarathi', 'Kavalam', 'Pacha', etc. The chundan vallam (Snake Boat) which gets the first rank in the race annexes the rolling cups awarded by the Raj Pramukh of erst-while Travancore-Cochin State and the Governor of Kerala and also becomes eligible for a special bonus. The boats that come first in the race in the other categories are also awarded suitable prizes instituted by such dignatories as the Maharaja of Bharatpur and such concerns as the Aluminium Industries, Kundra.

The Kallurkad Syrian Catholic church in Champakulam is said to have been established in 427 A.D. and it is associated in local history with the royal house of Chembaksseri. When the idol of Krishna brought from Kuruchi by the Chembakasseri Raja's men for installation at Ambalapuzha rested for the night at Champakulam, the dignitaries of the Church are also said to have rendered all assistance and the local Christians participated actively in the procession of boats in which the deity was taken to Ambalapuzha the next day. Even now the flag and the coir rope required for the vallam kali at Champakulam are supplied from the Kallurkad Church. When the boats reach the front of the Kallurkad church, the oarsmen sing songs in its praise as well. Several Chempakasseri Rajas are said to have witnessed the boat race from within the Vicar's Quarters in the Church. One of them is believed to have given financial assistance for the renovation of the Kallurkad Church. The lands given to it free of tax are still owned by the Church. The annual Perunnal in this church begins on the second Sunday in Thulam (October-November) and lasts for 8 days.

CHATHANKULANGARA (CHENGANNUR TALUK)

Chathankulangara, in Chengannur town, has a famous temple dedicated to Narasimha. The temple is under the management of a private trustee viz., the Munchira Madham Swamiyar of Trivandrum. There is a Vattezhethu inscription engraved on its entrance which records the execution of repairs to this temple and its consecration. On palaeographic grounds this record has been assigned to the 14th century. The temple has an abundance of exquisite wood carvings, which too, on the evidence of the above inscription, have been ascribed to the same period. There are 21 important panels of deific

figures and Puranic scenes, all expressing tender sentiment. One of the panels depicts the story of the theft of the garments of the Gopa ladies by Sri Krishna. Three of the ladies are shown as standing on the branches of a tree, one in the process of climbing it and two at the foot of the tree on the top of which Sri Krishna is seated with the stolen garments. The nudity of the female figures is made less glaring by their endeavour to cover themselves with one hand while lifting the other to receive the cloth from Krishna. An ornamental pillar decorated with floral designs on one side of the panel adds to the splendour of the above carving. Among the other sports of Krishna carved on the panels are the stealing of the butter and opening of mouth by Krishna before Yashoda. Another picturesque scene depicted here is the Setubandhanam (bridging of Setu) of the Ramayana. The figures of monkeys and monkey-chiefs carrying boulders on their heads to be thrown into the sea to build the bridge are carved in bold style close by this panel is the carving of a gateway in relief. The door-screen at the centre represents the scene of Sri Krishna (Balakrishna) killing Arishtasura who assumed the form of a bull to attack him at the instance of Kamsa. Balakrishna is shown standing on the humped bull with one leg on the hump, his right hand holding one of the horns of the bull already plucked by him and his left hand plucking the other horn. The pillars on either side of this carving of the gateway are connected at the top by an ornamental panel of magnificent foliage rising in receding ranks. The figure of a door-keeper (Dwarapala) on another panel shows a high degree of artistic perfection. The ornamental headgear resembling the headgears used in Kathakali, the ear-rings, necklaces, shoulder rings and bangles which decorate the image are elegantly carved. A scarf with floral decorations is also seen hanging from the neck on either side. A lady holding a mirror in her left hand and dressing the hair from the top with the right one is depicted on another panel. Her plump body, left naked above the loins, is carved with remarkable realism while the ornaments which decorate her are both exquisite and delicate. On the front side of the sanctum sanctorum (Srikovil) is an impressive figure of Narasimha killing Hiranyakasipu. One of the hands of Narasimha holds the torn out bowels of Hiranyakasipu, while two others hold the conch and fiery discus respectively. The left lower hand presses down the legs of Hiranyakasipu while the right lower hand is engaged in keeping down his head. One hand is however

broken. The figure is $1' 6\frac{1}{2}''$ high. Hanuman appearing before Sita, in the Asokavana is another piece of exquisite wood carving in this temple. Sita is seated in the shade of an Asoka tree with her head resting on the right hand and Hanuman is shown first perching on the top of the tree and then appearing before Sita with the message of Sree Rama. The height of the figure is $9\frac{1}{4}''$ and $6''$ in one of the panels. In the words of Stella Kramrisch, "Afflicted she (Sita) sits in the cloak and canopy of her long hair and her enormous hands demonstrate her abandon and grief. Hanuman in the tree and Hanuman approaching her; the tree which links the figures, fills the composition with algeallike leaves, such as grown in fairy land. Every child must delight in this setting. It is clear as a wood-cut". Among the other Puranic scenes depicted on the panel are the Kiratarjuneeyam, Palazhimadhanam, Pootanamoksham, Markandeyapuram, Kaliyamardanam, Dasavathara, Ananthasayanam, etc. The annual utsavam in this temple starts on Sivarathri day in Kumbham (February-March) and lasts for ten days. There is also a chirappu during the Mandalam season in Vrischikam and Dhanu (December-January).

CHEPPAD (KARTHIKAPALLY TALUK)

Cheppad, situated twenty-nine miles to the north of Quilon on the Quilon-Alleppey road, is noted for its six centuries old Orthodox Syrian Church. Built in the year 1300 A.D., this Church dedicated to St. George, is only one half of the older one which had existed at Haripad, the other half having been carried away to Karthikapally and erected there. It is said that the old church at Haripad was divided into two in order to serve the needs of Christians in two different localities and that each party was allowed to take with them one half of the Church to their own locality. Kanjur Valiathan a local Hindu Chieftain, helped the Christians to transport and set up at Cheppad, half the original Church from Haripad. It was with his active assistance that the present St. George's Church at Cheppad was built.

The main portico of the Cheppad Church and the subsidiary porches on either side are built after the traditional pattern of the porches in Hindu temples and homes. There are interesting wood carvings in the porches. The Cheppad Church also contains interesting mural paintings. These frescoes kept in the holy of holies depict the Great Apostles Scenes from the life of Jesus Christ

His Nativity to the Crucifixion and a Malankara Metropolitan. They are exquisite specimens of indigenous mural art and have a distinct Kerala touch about them. They are expressive of religious history in a simple yet dignified way.

Archbishop Alexis De Menezes of the Roman Catholic Faith and his retinue visited the Cheppad Church immediately after the historic Synod Diamper (1599) and brought the parish and church under the Latin sway and installed a statue of St. Mary with the Child Jesus in the Church. This statue is still being preserved here. After the historic Coonan Cross Oath in 1653 A.D., when the majority of parishes which Archbishop Menezes had subjugated broke away from the Roman yoke and reverted to their old Orthodox Faith, the Cheppad parish also followed their example.

In the holy of holies of this old Church are laid to rest the sacred mortal remains of His Grace Mar Dionysius IV (popularly known as the Cheppad Metropolitan) who presided over the destiny of the Malankara Syrian Church from 1825 to 1855 A.D. In the vicinity of the Church is a spacious two-storeyed building, built in 1825 A.D. by this Metropolitan for his residence. Mar Dionysius IV is regarded as one of the greatest figures in the history of the Orthodox Syrian Church because it was due to his efforts that the Church could retain its old faith and avoid a merger with the Anglican Church notwithstanding all the pressure brought to bear on it. As the sacred resting place of the mortal remains of the Cheppad Metropolitan, the Cheppad Church is a place of pilgrimage for devout Orthodox Christians even today. His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia paid a visit to this church in 1956 and gave valuable presents.

Situated about five furlongs from the Cheppad junction is one of the famous Bhagavathi temples of Central Travancore, viz., the Vettikulangara Devi temple. Though the main deity is Devi, there are also shrines of Sastha, Ganapathi, Saraswathi and Siva in this temple. The image of the Devi was obtained from a tank in the south-west corner of the temple premises and it is still preserved as a sacred spot. The wooden sculptures in the Gopuram of the temple are famous all over Kerala. The whole of Bhagavatha is illustrated here with remarkable vigour. The Ananthasayanam, Dasavathara, Siva Thandava, Kiratarjuneeyam, Palazhi mardhanam,

etc. and some of other Puranic themes carved in wood. The story of the Dasavathara is particularly impressive. The figures here have a unique charm and rhythm rarely seen in other temples. The main offering in this temple is what is called Nazhiyarippayasam the special quality of which is that it would not be spoilt even if it is kept for months together. The annual festival falls in Karkatakam (July-August). It starts on Karthika day and lasts for ten days.

Chengannur (Chengannur Taluk) 9° 15' North Latitude and 76° 35' East Longitude)

Chengannur, the headquarters of the Taluk and the Revenue Division of the same name, is situated 75 miles from Trivandrum on the Main Central Road. It is the centre of a fertile countryside through which flow the rivers Pamba and Achencoil and which produces rich agricultural crops such as paddy, coconuts, bananas, sugar cane, yams other edible roots. It is a populous and thriving commercial centre as well. The Pamba flows through the township and is spanned by a fine bridge. There are two famous hills called Pandavan para and Nuttvan Para at Chengannur. There is a small temple with the idol of Lord Krishna on the Pandavam Para.

Chengannur looms large in the traditional early history of Kerala as a centre of Hindu religious activity. It is one of the 108 divyadesams (localities with specially sacred Vishnu shrines) of the Vaishnavas, being known to them as Tiruchengannur. Moreover, it is the seat of an ancient and well-known temple dedicated to Siva and Parvati with many legends regarding its origin and importance. The tradition is that a great sage, called Sakti Kishi, was performing tapas at Chengannur and that pleased with his devotion Siva appeared before him and asked what boon he would have. The sage replied that the Lord along with Parvati, His Consort, should consent to be consecrated at Chengannur. Sometime previously the Sage Agastya had also been granted a similar boon and therefore, Siva with Parvati appeared for a brief moment before mortal eyes and at the place where they revealed themselves Agastya consecrated a temple dedicated to their worship. The original temple was rebuilt by the local chieftains called Nainars at a later date. Subsequently it passed into the hands of Potti Jenmies and later still into the control of the Devaswam Board.

Another legend ascribes a part to the local Arayans or fisher community in the founding of this temple. It is said that on a Sivaratri day in ancient times the Arayans living on the banks of the Pamba, were fishing in the river when they caught in their net a Siva lingam which they set up for worship. Immediately a divine personage appeared on the scene, performed the puja, and telling the Arayans that the lingam they had come upon was one which had once been worshipped by great sages and that it must be reconsecrated and set up in a temple, vanished. A temple was accordingly built and the lingam consecrated.

Another story regarding the origin of the temple connects it with Mahavishnu. It is said that Lord Siva was carrying the charred body of his wife Parvati who was consigned to the flames by his father Daksha during his famous yaga. Since the wandering of Siva caused disturbance to all normal activities, Mahavishnu sent his Chakra and cut the dead body to pieces. A temple was consecrated at all those places where parts of the fell. It is believed that the central parts of body fell at Chengannur then known as Sonachalam and the present temple was built at the place.

Mention may also be made of the legend which associates this temple with the Kannaki cult. The story is told that Kannaki who wrought vengeance on the Pandya king for the slaughter of her husband Kovalan came to Chengannur and did tapas there. The legendary Chera King Senguttuvan erected a temple at the place and consecrated Kannaki there in the form of Chengamavalli.

Although both Siva and Parvati are installed in the temple at Chengannur, it is the worship of the latter as Bhagavathi that is more popular. There is a unique, periodic 3-day ceremony called "Tirupputhu" observed in the temple. It takes place for about 11 times a year. The cloth with which the metal image of the Goddess is draped is found to be discoloured with red spots. The discoloured cloth is sent up to the ladies of the Vanjipuzha Matom and on being passed by them, the image is removed to a separate shed and kept there for three days. The Srikovil is closed for the period. On the fourth day, after purificatory ceremonies, it is reinstalled in the central shrine. The discoloured cloth is treasured as a holy relic by devotees and there is a great demand for the same. The story is even now told that Col. Munro, who went to Chengannur to fix the nativu for the temple, was disinclined to believe this strange pheno-

menon, but later, on personal examination of the cloth was convinced that the expenses were justified and made due amends by making special offerings to the Goddess. The annual festival at Chengannur temple lasts for twenty-eight days in December-January and sometimes even longer, if the above ceremony (Tiruppthu) occurs in the meantime.

It appears that there were originally a Kuthampalam (mandapam where the Chakiyar performs Kuthu) of peculiar structure and a Gopuram of five storeys in the Chenannur temple. A famous architect by name Uliyanur Perunthachan built the Kuthampalam which was an architectural puzzle in so far as the pillars supporting the structure were so designed as to yield no shadow either in day time or in the night after the lamps were lighted. Only the foundation of the Kuthampalam is seen today. Both the Kuthampalam and the Gopuram were destroyed by fire.

Chengannur is also the seat of ancient orthodox Syrian Church. It has also been famous for its craftsmen who could carve beautiful figures, and objects such as rosewater sprinklers and nagaswarm pipes, out of blocks of granite. Today this art has considerably languished, although it is not absolutely extinct. The Department of Industries runs a Training Centre at Chengannur to impart training to select persons in the art of granite carving.

Being the headquarters of the Revenue Division there are a number of important offices here eg., the Sub Collector's Office, District Transport Office, Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation, etc. There is a Telephone Exchange at the place. An Industrial Training Institute and a first Grade College (Christian College, Chengannur) are located here. The visitors to Chengannur can accommodate themselves at the P.W.D. Campshed.

CHETTikulANGARA (MAVELIKARA TALUK)

A village situated about two miles from Mavelikara, Chettikulangara, is the seat of a famous Bhagavati temple. The origin of this temple which occupies almost a central position in the Onattukara region is lost in obscurity. The deity here is in the form of Badrakali and is supposed to possess miraculous powers. Many are the legends relating to the favours conferred by the deity on her devotees and also terrors held out by her to the malefactors. There are two

utsavams in this temple, one in Kubham (February-March) and the other in Meenam (March-April). The former is the more important of the two festivals and the main events fall on the day of Bharani asterism. The utsavam is celebrated under the auspices of 13 karas, but is attended by people from all parts of the District. The main festivity associated with the celebration is the Kutirakettu or Kettukazhcha in which huge and elegantly constructed cars take part. These are structures erected with upright poles to which are tied cross pieces and then covered or decorated with clothes of different colours. They are mounted upon wheels before being dragged in front of the temple. There are two kinds of cars, one slender and tall and the other which resembles a Nepalese wooden temple. The former is called Kutira (a horse) and the latter a ter (a car). The Kutira has generally five tiers at the bottom and seven members in the crowning piece. In the ter (car) are generally three storeys. The cars from all the 13 karas are dragged one after the other before the deity and then assembled in a row in the nearby field. The whole affair presents an impressive sight. It is generally held that the festival resembles the Chinese festival celebrated on the birthday of the Buddha. A large scale fair is also held at Chetikulangara in connection with the festival.

Edathua (Kuttanad Taluk 9° 20' North Latitude and 76° 25' East Longitude)

Edathua, the seat of the ancient Catholic church dedicated to St. George, is situated amidst picturesque surroundings on the banks of the river Pamba in Kozhimukku village. The paddy fields and coconut palms of Kuttanad lying in the background add to the beauty of the place. There is a story behind the origin of the Edathua church. The church at Champakulam set up in 427 A.D. could not cater to the needs of the large Christian population of Edathua which lay several miles distant from the place. Hence a new church was set up at Edathua on the southern side of the channel to the south of the present Church. The date of its establishment is believed to be 1810. The image of St. George installed in the church was brought from the Catholic church, at Edapalli and it is alleged to bear traces of the influence of Persian sculpture. The Latin Christians of Quilon have also some special connection with the Edathua church. The annual Perunal in this church starts on Medam 14

(April) and ends on Medam 24 (May). It is held in commemoration of the installation of the image of St. George brought down from Edappaili. The celebration attracts lakh of pious Christian devotees from all parts of Kerala and also from the neighbouring State of Madras, particularly Kanyakumari District. The prayers sung by the devotees in Tamil rend the air on this occasion. The main items of offering to St. George who is credited with many a miracle are images of eyes, legs, ears, serpents, etc. made of gold, silver, etc. Edathua can be reached by bus from Tiruvalla after a 7 mile journey. While a large number of pilgrims prefer this route, many reach the place by steam boats and vallams along the river Pamla. Apart from a High School (St. George's High School) attached to the Edathua Church there is a Junior College also at the place. A bi-weekly market is held at Edathua on Mondays and Thursdays.

Evur (Karttikapally Taluk) (9° 10' North Latitude and 76° 25' East Longitude)

Evur, situated in the vicinity of Cheppad, is the seat of the Sri Krishna temple, one of the celebrated Vaishnava shrines of the District. The deity here is believed to have been installed by Agni Bhagavan (the God of fire). The temple was destroyed by fire in 1066 R.E. (1890-91) when Maharaja Sri Mulam Tirunal was sojourning in Benares. It is said that the Maharaja had one night the dream of shrine of Krishna being destroyed by fire and on receipt of the news of the destruction of the Evur temple on the same day he ordered its immediate reconstruction. The minor deity in this temple is Sri Bhutanatha and he has been installed facing west amidst a cluster of tree in the precincts of the temple. Persons suffering from epilepsy, insanity, etc., come and worship here in large numbers and return to their homes after being fully cured. Betel leaves, coconuts and Avil are the favourite offerings to Sri Bhutanatha.

One of the colourful boat regattas of the District is held at Evur in July in connection with the Karkataka Sankramam. Three big chundan vallams (snake boats) belonging to the people of the kara and several other vallams of different sizes participate in this festival. The flower garlands supplied from the Krishna temple and silk parasols are used to decorate the boats. The festival reaches its climax as the boats reach the nearby Karippuzha ar. Thousands of people from the neighbouring areas throng to see the boat regatta.

The Desabandhu Library and Reading room is an important institution in Evur.

Haripad (Karthikapally Taluk) (9° 10' North Latitude and 76° 25' East Longitude)

The headquarters of the Karthikapally Taluk, Haripad is situated on the road from Quilon to Alleppey. Haripad literally means the seat of Hari or Vishnu, but the town is famous for its temple dedicated to Lord Subramonia. This temple is of considerable archaeological importance and local tradition assigns its origin to the period before the commencement of the Kali Yuga. The ownership of the temple was originally vested in four Brahmin families. They wished to have another building in the premises and to dedicate it to Sastha. Accordingly when the new building was nearing completion the trustees had a dream that at a particular spot in the Patiramanal Island there was an idol of Lord Subramonia and that it should be consecrated in a new building. The image was duly brought and installed here. The Paipad Jalolsavam (Boat regatta) which is held on Chingam (August-September) is said to commemorate this event.

In 1921 a fire occurred in the Haripad temple and all the structures within the first prakara enclosing the central shrine, the naimiskara mandapa and the entire inner enclosures were destroyed. It was subsequently rebuilt. To the left of the eastern entrance to the main temple is a finely built spacious kuthampalam or theatre hall with a raised platform where during the annual festival in the temple the story of the Mahabharata is expounded. There are some exquisite wood carvings on the ceiling of this edifice. In front of this temple is found a stone effigy of Hanuman being horizontally poised on its back on an upright block of stone, with its face looking upwards. The temple has a magnificent structure which is the gift of a company of the erstwhile Travancore Nair Brigade once stationed in the locality. Additions to the buildings and the repairs thereto have sometimes been made with the help of voluntary subscriptions amounting to tens of thousands of rupees. There are a few inscriptions in the temple most of which relate to matters connected with the cultivation of temple lands by private individuals. There are three festivals in the temple held in Chingam (August-September), Dhanu, (December-January) and Medam (March-April). The festival

In Medam lasts ten days. The Thy Puyam in Makaram (January-February) is also an important celebration. Among the other important temples in the neighbourhood the Mannarasala Serpent temple and the Tiruvilanjal Devi temple deserve mention. The deity in the latter is believed to be the wife of Lord Subramonia.

Haripad is the seat of a family of Koyil Tampurans who had had marriage connections with the royal house of Travancore. The late Kerala Varma Valiya Koil Tampuran, the author of the Mayura Sandesam, hailed from this family. There are three palaces belonging to the Haripad house, viz, Chempool, Ananthaapuram and Karimpalikoickal palace. It was in the last mentioned palace that Marthanda Varma is said to have once taken refuge to elude capture by his enemies. The biggest granary in the State is at Haripad. Among the important offices here are the Taluk Office, the Assistant Engineer's Office and the Sub-Registry office, etc. There is a Police Station at the place.

Kanichukulangara (Shertallai Taluk)

Situated about 8 miles north-west of Alleppy town, Kanichukulangara in Mararikulam village, is the abode of one of the most famous Bhagavati shrines in the District. Many are the legends concerning the origin of this temple. Local tradition says that the deity of Kanichukulangara is one who came by the sea. It is said that the ship in which the Devi was travelling was wrecked off the coast of the Arabian Sea, not far from the place where the temple is at present located and that a Brahmin devotee who happened to recognise the Devi who had reached the shore in safety consecrated her at the present place. The local people believe that the wrecked ship may still be seen in the huge tank located about 300 yards east of the temple premises. The temple which thus originated under Brahmin trusteeship later came into the hands of the Ezhavas under exceptional circumstances. The Brahmin trustee is said to have fallen in love with a beautiful Ezhava maiden named Chakki Amma and he later committed suicide by drowning himself in the tank after assigning the temple and its properties in favour of the maiden in an attempt to retrieve his own honour. The Souls of both the Brahmin and the maiden have since been consecrated in small shrines inside the temple.

Pregnant women visit the temple in large numbers to seek the favour of Chakki Amma even today.

The temple is now under the management of a local committee of seven persons. The main festival in this temple falls in the month of Kumbham (February-March) and it lasts for 21 days. The last day which coincides with the day of Tiru onam asterism marks the climax of the festival. The Dipakazha which is an important offering made to the deity on this occasion is really an impressive sight. The main festivities during the festival are Patayani and Vela Tullal. These are supposed to represent the battles fought between the Pandavas and the Kauravas in the Epic age. The display of fire works is one of the highlights of the festival on the last day. The Kanichukulangara festival attracts thousands of people from all parts of the District and outside.

Karumadi (Ambalapuzha Taluk)

About a mile south-east of Ambalapuzha lies the village of Karumadi which is surrounded by vast stretches of brackish water and fertile paddy fields with black soil. This place is famous for its Karumadi Kuttan, a black granite figure of the Buddha which has been installed in a small shrine specially erected for the purpose and is under the control of the State Archaeology Department. The image has been assigned to the 9th or 10th century. Many legends are associated with this image which lay immersed in saltish water till recently. Only in 1965 the Government of Kerala declared the monument a protected one.

The shrine of Karumadi Kuttan stands by the side of the public canal to the west of the Kamapuram temple. The image is in a standing posture and is five feet high. The right hand of Karumadi Kuttan has been broken. The image is finely chiselled and is a triumph of stone carving.

The origin of Karumadi Kuttan has been a theme of controversy. Many ascribe to it a mysterious and divine origin. One version is that Karumadi Kuttan is a Pariah by caste, who was cursed by a holy Brahmin and converted into a stone. According to another story the image is that of a Harjan King by name Kuttan who is alleged to have once ruled over Kuttanad. Another story says

that he is one of minor diabolical deities deputed by the chieftain and priest of Chengannur to kill Devanarayana, the Brahmin king of Ambalapuzha, but that the presiding deity of Kamapuram in his wrath turned him into stone and fixed him there as Karum di Kutte. Yet another legend informs us that Karumadi Kuttan was a low caste boy who dared to pollute the great sage Vilwa mangalam Swamiyar with whose name is associated the consecration of the images in many temples of Kerala and that the latter cursed him to become a stone.

The above theories are more fanciful than convincing. Though some attribute a Jaina origin to the image, the consensus of opinion among scholars now is that it is an image of the Buddha whose faith was once widely prevalent in this District. The ushnisha (top-knot) and jwala (flame) and the traces of the upper cloth spread over the chest, visible in this image, go to prove its Buddhist origin. Karumadi Kuttan has been held in great respect by the people, especially the boatmen who pass by the canal. They used to propitiate him by making offerings so as to ensure safe journey. One of the ways of propitiating him was by breaking coconuts before the image. The Dalai Lama during his visit to Kerala in October 1965 visited Karumadi and offered worship at the shrine of Karumadi Kuttan.

Kaviyur (Tiruvalla Taluk)

The village of Kaviyur situated on the banks of the Manimaia river is noted for its famous temple dedicated to Sri Hanuman. A short detour from the main road at Tiruvalla leads to this temple which stands on a small hill and has been built in the gable style of architecture peculiar to Kerala. In its north-western corner is the shrine of Hanuman who is looked upon as the presiding deity of the place and attracts thousands of devotees from all over the District and out-side. The original name of the place is 'Kapiyur, (place of the monkey) which in the course of centuries got corrupted into Kaviyur. Siva, Ganapati and Parvati are also among the other deities enshrined in this temple. The Sthalapurana says that Sri Rama visited Kaviyur on his way to Lanka to recover Sita and installed the Sivalingam in the temple.

The annual Arat festival of the Kaviyur temple is celebrated

in Dhanu (December-January), when full advantage is taken to display the Kerala arts like Kathakali, Ottamtullal etc. To the connoisseur of art the Kaviyur temple is a veritable treasure of exquisite wood carvings. Scenes from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata adorn the Mandapam and the temple walls.

Of fascinating interest to the archaeologist and the artist, is the Trikkakkudi Siva cave temple about a mile from the Kaviyur temple. Local tradition ascribes the construction of this temple to the Bhutas who are said to have worked overnight and finished it. There is a view that the temple is of Buddhist origin but there is no positive evidence in support of this view. The presence of Siva Lingam and the idol of Gnapati inside suggests that it is an ancient Siva Shrine. It is significant that its entrance faces the setting sun. The temple has been assigned to the latter half of the eight century A. D, if not earlier, on the ground of its close resemblance to later Palava style. The following is a brief description of the cave temple. 'It is scooped out from the sides of two massive boulders nearly 12 feet wide on the summit of a low hillock. The floor of the cave is a few feet above the natural ground level and is approached by a flight of steps, hollowed out of the rock. The cave is 19 feet 8 inches broad and 8 feet 6 inches high. Two pillars, 8 feet 8 inches in height, divide the breadth of the cave into three openings, two of which are 5 feet broad, the other being only 4 feet 8 inches. The central shrine is a square cell measuring 8 feet each side and has in it a cylindrical rock-cut Linga. The rectangular hall in front of this sanctum measures 19 feet 8 inches by 5 feet, and contains, one on either side of the doorway, 2 inches 6 feet pedestals, containing three rows of plain band ornament, flanked by pilasters 6 feet 3 inches high and 11 inches broad.' There are three stone figures in this temple which are among the earliest specimen of stone sculpture. 'The first is that of a Dwarapala (Guardian) in life size in the niche to the left of the entrance of the cave. His head-dress is tall and conical. From beneath it his hair falls in picturesque curls on his shoulder. He leans on a formidable club around which a Cobra has entwined itself. He has no yajnopavita (sacred thread); and the ornaments that are worn by him are the karnakundala (ear-ring), nrinmala (necklace), udarabandha (girdle), the bahuvalaya (wrist ornament) and the urusutra (hip-belt). The other figure

is different in look and pose: he has his hands crossed on his breast, and stands with head slightly bent in a deferential attitude. His hair is a tangled mass knotted in the middle, and the ornaments that adorn his person are the same as those of the Dwarapala. Both the figures are tall well-built. The third one is a standing life size figure of a bearded man. He wears his hair in the topknot fashion peculiar to Kerala. The ears, though damaged, show signs of having been decorated with ear-rings. He has no yajnopavita, and wears only a lower cloth reaching down to his shins. He holds his arms akimbo, and his left hand rests on his hip and holds a jug-like vessel with an oval body, a long stoppered neck and short thick shout." The Trikkakudi cave temple is now being preserved as a protected monument by the Archaeological Department of the State.

Kayamkulam (Karthikappally Taluk) (9° 45' North Latitude and 78° 25' East Longitude)

An ancient town on the Quilon-Alleppey section of the National Highway Kayamkulam is the former capital of the kingdom of the same name also called Odanad. The town has an area of 8.41 sq. mile (21.78 sq. kilometers) and a population of 441, 571 (1961 census.) Kayamkulam has been the scene of many a historic battle in the past. One of the wards of the Kayamkulam Municipality is still known as Padanilam (battle field). The Raja of Kayamkulam surrendered to Ma thanda Varma in 1746 and the principality was annexed to Travancore. The remnants of some irregular fortifications may be seen at Eruva in the northern part of the town.

An old palace built by Ramayyan Dalawa is located in nearby Krishnapuram. The palace which is under the State Archaeology Department contains the famous mural painting on 'Gajendramoksham' which measures 14' by 11' and has been assigned to the 18th century. In the words of Dr. Cousins the painting is a 'master' piece in size, conception and execution". It represents one of the purely indigenous schools of painting prevalent in South India. There is a temple in the locality which is dedicated to Krishna. The Krishna temples at Eruva and Putiyadam are also important.

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temples of the town. Kayamkulam with its sizeable Muslim population has an ancient mosque - Pazhayatheruvil Palli near the Market. The Gauda Saraswaths have a temple of their own, viz., the Sri Vitoba temple, Kayamkulam. There is also a very old Jacobite Syrian church at the Place whose origin is traced to 829 A.D. Known as the Kadessa Church it is the most important church in the town.

The Kayamkulam lake prese is a beautiful scenery with its shores of green paddy fields and coconut palms. Its outlet into the sea admitted small vessels in the past and made Kayamkulam a place of commercial importance from early days. The place has been connected now by a network of roads and waterways with other places in the interior and hence it has been a centre of inland trade as well. Kayamkulam was famous for its trade in pepper and other spices. Among the important industries of the place are cashew, oil milling and coir.

The affairs of Kayamkulam town are managed by a Municipality. A College, viz., the Miladi Sheriff Memorial College is functioning here since 1964-65. There is a Rice Research Station at the place. The Central Coconut Research Station is functioning at Krishnapuram.

Kokkothamangalam (Shertallai Taluk)

Situated on the western shores of the Vembanad lake about three miles east of Shertallai town, the village of Kokkothamangalam is the seat of one of the two churches in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam which were found by Apostle St-Thomas. According to the tradition prevalent among the local Christians this prosperous village was once inhabited by Brahmins, and other caste Hindus and the Apostle performed a miracle here which brought about the conversion of several of the Brahmin families. A church was erected close to the local Hindu temple. The remains of an ancient Hindu temple, with a filled up tank, are seen very near the church even today. The present church was rebuilt in 1900.

The Waranad Bhagavathi temple is situated in Kokkothamangalam village and the annual festival which falls on the day of Bharani asterism in the month of Meenam (March-April) attracts large crowds from places nearby. The main floral offering to the deity here is Chethippuu, Garudan Tukkam.

is also an important offering (Nercha) in this temple.

Mankombu (Kuttanad Taluk)

The headquarters of Kuttanad Taluk since 1965, Mankombu has been known throughout the whole of erstwhile Travancore State as the seat of an ancient family of Brahmin money lenders. There is an ancient Devi temple at the place. The annual festival here commences on the first day of Medam (April-May) and lasts for ten days. In addition to the temple, there is a Syrian Catholic church at Mankombu which comes under the Archdiocese of Changanassery. A Paddy Research Station is located at Mankombu. There is a bi-weekly market here which is held on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Mannar (Chengannur Taluk) 9° 20' North Latitude and 76° 30' East Longitude)

Mannar, about 6 miles to the west of Chengannur town, lies to the south of Niranam, separated from it by the Pannayi river, which is a portion of the river Pamba. It is a place of innumerable temples, the vast majority of which are dedicated to Siva and Bhagavati. The most important of the Siva temples is Tirukkurati, which is noted for its exquisite wood carvings of Puranic subjects. The Siva enshrined here is believed to be in *tapas* and hence women are not allowed in the inner precincts of this temple. But there is a Vishnu shrine in the premises of the Siva temple and women are admitted here. Another temple in the premises is dedicated to Sastha. The most important Bhagavati temple in Mannar is the one at Kuttanperur. It is also noted for its fine wood carvings. Within the premises of the temple is the Chitalputtu (Termitary) where Kroshtamani, the legendary founder of many temples in Mannar, is believed to have entered *samadhi*. In addition to the Siva and Bhagavati temples, Mannar has its own Subramania, Sastha and Vishnu temples. Another noteworthy feature is that it has a temple each dedicated to Saraswathi, the Goddess of Learning and Surya, the Sun God. It may be noted that the temples dedicated to Sun and Saraswathi are very rare in Kerala. In the nearby Kadapra village (Tiruvalla Taluk) is situated the historic Panayanarkavu temple which figures in the Unnunilisandesam. It has some interesting mural paintings. One

of the paintings which depicts Surya (Sun God) is remarkable for its decorative finish and excellence of composition and has been assigned to the 16th century. A copy of this painting which is of immense human interest is exhibited in the Sri Chitra Art Gallery, Trivandrum. Another painting depicting Draupathi's Swayamvara is noted for its breadth of conception. The innumerable temples dedicated to a variety of Gods and Goddesses make Mannar and its suburbs an area of considerable interest to the Hindus of the District. In the Kadapra Panchayat is situated the Parimala church (Orthodox Syrian) which attracts a large number of pilgrims as the mortal remains of Mar Gregorius are preserved here. The annual festival here falls on Tulam 17 to 18. Mannar has two mosques- Iramathur Jamayathu Palli which is supposed to be about 600 years old and another, the Putiyapalli, which is beautifully located on the banks of the river Pamba. There is also a Madrasa attached to the Putiyapalli.

Mannar has also a well-run Khadi and Village Industries centre under the auspices of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi. It is one of the important centres of the Khadi Industry. The Hindi centre is functioning in the Koickal Palace where the Kayamkulam Rajas used to stay in the summer season. The place is also noted for several industrial units engaged in metal works. Mannar is one of the places where bell-metal articles are made and the Small Industries Corporation runs here a Common Facility Centre. One of the schools in the place is the Nayar Samajam H. S. which is more than sixty years old and is now owned by the N.S.S., but it was founded by the local public several years before the N.S.S. entered in the educational field.

Mannarasala (Karthikapally Taluk)

Mannarasala situated close to Haripad, is the seat of the famous temple of Nagaraja, the largest of its kind in Kerala. This temple built in a grove is reputed to contain 30,000 images of snake-gods. The following story is told in connection with the origin of this temple. A member of the local Illam married a girl of the Vettikotta Illam, where the serpents were held in great veneration. The girl's parents being poor could give her nothing by way of dowry. Therefore they gave her one of the stone idols of the serpent, of which there were many in their house. The girl was asked to take good care of this stone and worship it regularly.

In due course the girl is said to have become pregnant and given birth to a male child and a snake. The snake child was located in an underground cellar of the house and brought up. The Illam prospered from that day. After a time when the serpent child grew and gave rise to numerous progeny, they were all removed to a spot in the southern portion of the house where a magnificent grove has since grown.

In this grove stone idols of Nagas are put up for the king and queen of snakes, known as Nagaraja and Naga-Yakshi, and for various members of the family. In the cellar of the house, as well as in the grove where the stone images are placed, a solution of Nurum palum (rice flour and milk) is offered once a year, that is, on the day following the Sivarathri festival in the month of Kumbham (March-April). The same kind of offering is made to the Chithrakulam also. About twelve and one-fourth Edangazhis of dough and milk are mixed together and kept in the cellar. Thereafter, the door of the cellar is shut for three days, and the women of the household cover the crevices and holes of the door by the big cadjan umbrella of the female inmate of the Illam in order to prevent others from peeping into it out of curiosity. On the third day, the door is opened, and whatever remains in the vessel of the dough and milk placed there is thrown into a tank as unfit for human use. The mixing up of Nurum palum and the performing of the pujas are done by the eldest female member of the Illam. The Nurum palum is made of rice flour, saffron powder, cow's milk, water of the tender coconut, fruit of the Kadali plantain and ghee. In the Nalukettu of the house, offerings of Nurum palum and cooked rice, as well as Kuruti (a red liquid composed of four saffron and chunam), take place every Ayilliam (star) day. Every morning the king and the queen of serpents are washed and an offering of Vellaneveyam (cooked rice) and afterwards of fried grain (malar) follow. During the month of Vrischikam (November) a special puja called Navakam and an offering of Nurum palum are daily observed. On the Sivarathri day, in the month of Cumbham (February-March) the customary five pujas and Navakam are performed, and in the evening sacrificial offerings to the serpents and Kuruthi (offering) are made, and at the conclusion of the day's puja, the idols are taken in procession round the temple,

On the day of Ayilliam (star) in the months of Kanni and Thulam (September and October), all the serpent idols in the grove and the temples therein are taken in procession to the Illam, where offerings of Nurum palum, Kuruthi and cooked rice are made. The person who carries the idol of the Nagaraja is the eldest female member of the family, and the procession is conducted with great pomp and rejoicings. The eldest female member of the house, though married, is expected to lead a life of abstinence when she becomes the oldest female in the family. During the festive days at Mannarasala thousands of people assemble to worship and propitiate the serpent gods. The offerings include gold and silver coins, and gold, silver, copper or stone effigies of snakes, grains of all kinds, pepper, salts, affron, tender coconuts, bunches of kadali plantains, melons, oil, ghee, sandal wood, silk and other things. On Ayilliam days, the Pulluvans sing and dance either on their own account or for pay from the other pilgrims.

The grove and its temples cover an immense oblong space measuring about sixteen acres in extent. The inmates of the Illam are the priests of the gods in the grove. It is believed that whenever the puja is not performed with the strictest personal purity or attention to details, the serpent gods get offended, which feeling is exhibited by the largest cobras coming out of the grove as a warning. But as a rule, the serpents are not seen out of the ir holes, though hundreds of them are known to exist in the inner recesses. When any is seen, especially if a real cobra, the village astrologer is consulted, who readily finds out the cause of the wrath of the serpent gods and steps are taken immediately to pacify them by appropriate propitiatory ceremonies. The people believe in the efficacy of these ceremonies. It may be specially mentioned that though the shrine is full of serpents, no snake-bite has been reported from within its precincts.

Maraman (Tiruvalla Taluk)

Maraman is the seat of the first and one of the most important Marthoma Syrian Churches in the District. It is associated with the name of Abraham Malpan who by his teachings led the way for the secession of the Marthomites from the Orthodox Syrian Church. The Maraman Convention, the biggest religious gathering of the Christians in Asia, is held in Kumbham (February-March)

every year on the banks of the Pamba river at Maraman. The exact spot where the convention is held, however, lies in the Quilon District. In addition to the Marthoma Church; there is the Catholic Church dedicated to St. Theresa which comes under the Diocese of Tiruvalla.

About a furlong or two from Marthoma Church lies the Pramadathu Pass. It is a steep rock situated on the right bank of the Pamba river at Nedumprayar. A temple dedicated to Shiva is carved out of this rock. There is also a Bhajana Madham in front of this temple. Nothing is known about the founder of this temple. Nor is there any information about the year in which it was founded.

The town of Kozhencherry lies within a short distance from Maraman.

Mavelikara (Mavelikara Taluk) (9° 15' North Latitude and 76° 30' East Longitude)

The headquarters of Mavelikara Taluk the Municipal town of Mavelikara has an area of 5.25 sq. miles (12.63 sq. Km.) and a population of 18,94 (1961 Census). It has been the seat of a collateral branch of the Travancore royal house. The picturesque Ashemool river washes the town on its northern side. The town has been of some importance during the fighting between Travancore and Kayamkulam. The remains of a large fort, two miles in circumference, with 24 bastions and each side having a gateway in the centre may be seen here. It was in Mavelikara that Ramayyan Dalava breathed his last. The Police Station in Mavelikara is housed in a compound wherein, it is believed, the arms, ammunitions of the royal family were once kept.

Kandiur, situated in Mavelikara town is a place of historical importance. It was for some time the capital of the former principality of Odanad (Kayamkulam). It was here that Travancore gained the decisive victory over the Kayamkulam Raja and annexed the latter's principality. There is a famous Shiva temple at the place which is believed to be one of the oldest in Kerala. It contains ten sub-shrines considered to have been made specially sacred by the presence of all the Gods of the Hindu pantheon. There are also many inscriptions of archaeological importance in

this temple. One of the inscriptions dated 393 K.E. (1218 A.D.) informs us that Rama Kota Varma, the ruler of Kayamkulam (Odanad), rebuilt the Kandiur temple on the suggestion of the Venad ruler Ravi Kerala Varma (1215-1240). The temple is noted for its fine stone sculptures. The western door of the temple always remains closed. It is said that this has been the case ever since the Kayamkulam Raja discontinued visiting the temple after his defeat at the hands of Travancore. The Sivarathri festival in this temple in the month of Kumbham (February-March) attracts devotees from all parts of the District.

There are also other important temples and churches in Mavelikara town. One of the most important temples is the Krishnagwami temple. The annual festival here lasts for ten days, the last day being Tirunam day in Meenam (March-April). There is a Buddha shrine nearby which is under the control of the State Archaeology Department. It was obtained in 1111 K.E. (1936 A.D.) from the nearby Panja fields. The image has become an object of worship for the people of the locality. The peculiarity of the image is that the *Ushnisha Jewels* and the upper cloth worn in the *Upavita* sacred thread style can be seen very prominently. There is also a Sastha temple just outside the town, viz., the Kattuvalli Sastha temple. The Mandalam and Makaravilakku are important celebrations in this temple. There is a Narasimha temple in nearby Mattom and the Vishu festival here is important.

In Mavelikara town there are several Christian churches and missions. The Marthoma Syrian Church and the St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church are at Tazhakara within the town limits. The C.S.I. and the Salvation Army have also their churches, the latter being called Kirby Hall. The Brethern Mission, the Ceylon Pentecost Mission and the Indian Pentecost Mission are also active in the town. There are also two Catholic Churches in the town—the Latin Catholic Church at Valiaperumpuzha and the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church at Pottiyakavu.

The civic affairs of Mavelikara are managed by a Municipality. The town has a number of important public offices, e.g., the Town Office, the District Educational Office, etc. The Peet Memorial College is a Junior College in the suburbs of the town. There is a School of Painting at the place, viz., the Ravi Varma School of Painting.

Nilamperur (Kuttanad Taluk) 9° 25' North Latitude and 76° 25' East Longitude)

Nilamperur is a village situated within about a mile of the eastern edge of the Vembanad lake. It is a place of some historical interest. There is a large temple here which is dedicated to Devi Karthiayani. In addition, there are three minor temples dedicated to Siva, Sastha and Vishnu. An image of Ganapathi is installed in the temple of Siva. The image in the Vishnu temple is said to bear some resemblance to the stone images of the Buddha seen in Buddhist shrines.

A bronze statue of a legendary Chera king who is called Perumal Palliavanar is kept in a building outside the main temple. It is only 7½" in height, but has excited the curiosity of many a research scholar. Tradition says that Pallivanavar was a Chera ruler or Perumal of Tiruvanchikulam who retired to this village to spend his last days in religious meditation. The term 'Pallivanavar' literally means one who held sway in or over the Palli or resided in a Palli. It may be noted that the term Palli was applied in ancient Kerala to all non-Hindu religious shrines-Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc. Therefore while some would say that the ruler in question became a convert to Christianity, others express the view that he became a Buddhist. Local people believe that this Chera ruler died at Nilamperur and was buried near the gate of the main temple. There is a compound named Tiruvanchikulam in Nilamperur village even today and its owners have been all along paying tax to the Tiruvanchikulam Devaswam in Cranganore, even though it fell within Travancore territory. This fact is adduced as evidence in support of the emigration of a Chera ruler from Tiruvanchikulam to Nilamperur. The annual Pooram festival in the Nilamperur temple falls immediately after Onam in Chingam (August-September) and it was at one time celebrated by both the Hindus and Christians of the locality. On this occasion numerous figures of annams (swans) and kolams of Bhima and other puranic figures are mounted on chariots and exhibited in a flood of illumination. There is an important custom associated with the festival which is alleged to recall the connection of the temple with Pallivanavar. The eldest members of two Hindu families walk towards the building supposed to have been occupied in the past by the Pallivanavar and pray in silence for royal sanction to commence the Pooram celebration.

NIRANAM (TIRUVALLA TALUK)

Niranam is a place of historical importance. According to local tradition one of the seven churches founded in 52 A.D. by St. Thomas, the Apostle was in Niranam and it has been identified with the ancient Orthodox Syrian Church of the place. According to some writers Niranam is the Nelcynda of classical writers and was a flourishing sea-port in ancient times. The discovery of a Roman coin from the place is cited as evidence in support of this view. The place is referred to in the celebrated poem, *Unnunilisaand-esam* composed in the 14th century. Kannassaparambu believed to be the birthplace of the Niranam poets is situated near Niranam.

The Niranam church was one of the most important churches which defected from the Catholic Church in the wake of the Revolt of the Coonnen Cross (1653). Since then Niranam became almost the headquarters of the Malankara Syrian Church. An Inscription dated 1259 A.D. preserved here says that the old church was rebuilt in that year. The present church building is a relatively new one. There are some interesting stone images in the church. The relics of a Natakasala which was attached to the old church may also be seen here.

In addition to the Orthodox Syrian church Niranam, there is also a Marthoma Church at the place built about 1904. The latter is said to have been erected on the spot where the Apostle is believed to have planted his first Cross. Moreover, there is also the Catholic church dedicated to St. Mary which belongs to the Tiruvalla Diocese and was founded in 1932. Near the Niranam Church is an ancient Vishnu temple. Some of the new idols of deities like Vishnu, Subramonia, Devi and Siva unearthed from a tank have been installed in a nearby shrine. The Siva temple of Trikkapaliswaram is nearby a mile to the north of the Niranam Orthodox Syrian church and about 2 furlongs south of Kannassaparambu.

PALLIPURAM (SHERTALLAI TALUK)

Pallipuarum, about eight miles north of Shertallai town on the way to Arukutti, is situated on the western shore of the Vembanad lake facing Vaikam (Kottayam District). Here there is an ancient Syrian Catholic church dedicated to 'our Lady of Assumption.' It is believed by the local Christians that the Cross that St. Thomas erected at Kokkothamangalam, not far from here, happened to be

thrown away into the Vembanad lake by the local Hindus and that it safely floated over the surface of the lake and reached "Mattel" a small island adjacent to Pallipuram. The miraculously found Cross was solemnly taken by the people and a small church was built to commemorate the event. In later years the Cross was taken over to Pallipuram church and is even today preserved there. At Pallipuram there was a Seminary, the remnants of which can be seen even today. Some of the ancient paintings about 'Our Lady of Assumption' kept in this church are of great attraction to visitors to this place. The Perunnal in this church falls on August 15 every year and it is well attended. A Junior College has been started by the Nair Service Society at Pallipuram in 1964-65. The Pallathra Sand Lime Bricks Ltd., is situated nearby.

Pantalam (Mavelikara Taluk 9° 10' North Latitude and 76° 40' East Longitude.)

Situated between Adur and Chengannur on the Main Central Road, Pantalam is a non-municipal town with an area of 2.82 sq. miles and a population of 10,000 persons (1961 Census). It is the headquarters of the former chieftains known as Pantalam Raja. Pantalam was subjugated in 1756 and finally absorbed into Travancore in 1812. The Pantalam family has intimate connections with the Sabarimala temple and the Tiruvabharanam or jewellery of the deity of that temple is preserved in the Pantalam palace. One of the important temples of the place is the Mahadevar temple located on the banks of the Achenkoil river. The annual festival here falls in the month of Dhanu (December-January.) The fishes called Etta found in the river near the temple are supposed to be divine and they are fed by the devotees. There are two temples dedicated to Sastha and Madura Meenakshi attached to the Pantalam palace. The former is visited by the pilgrims to Sabarimala on their way to and back from the pilgrimage. There were some interesting mural paintings in this temple but they have since been spoiled due to lack of care. Pantalam has now a number of important institutions like N.S.S. College, the N.S.S. Polytechnic, the N.S.S. Medical Mission Hospital and the Mannam Sugar Mills. The place and the surrounding areas are noted for sugarcane cultivation. The Kurumthottayam market important for vegetables is in Pantalam. A cattle market is also held here periodically.

PUNNAPRA (AMBALAPUZHA TALUK)

A village situated in the suburbs of Alleppey, Punnappra was a scene of bitter fighting between the Communists and the Travancore State Police in the Communist uprising of 1946. Several Communists are believed to have died at the hands of the Police on this occasion. The vast majority of people living here are fishermen. The famous Alleppey mudbank (Chakara) rises here almost every year and provides an occasion for massive fishing to the local fisherfolk.

There are two important temples in Punnappra. One is the Vandanam temple dedicated to Sastha where monkeys can be seen prowling about. The other is the Aravukadu Bhagavati temple where the annual festival falls on Pooram day in Meenam (March-April). The Latin Catholic church at Punnappra dedicated to St. Joseph was established in 1915. Apart from this church which belongs to the Diocese of Alleppey, there is the St. Gregorios' Church at Punnappra which was established in 1892 and is under Syrian Catholic Archbishop of Changanassery.

The Carmel Polytechnic is situated in this village.

PURAKKAD (AMBALAPUZHA TALUK)

The village of Purakkad, which lies to the south of Ambalapuzha on the National Highway 47 is often identified with the Barace (Bacare) of the classical writers. It was called ' Porka ' or ' Poroi ' by the Portuguese and the Dutch. The place literally means "Outer Forest" and perhaps it was part of a large forest area in the past. The presence of large decaying trees deep beneath the soil in the Purakkad Karilands indeed points to the possibility of the existence of forests in the area in the distant past. Legends say that Purakkad was the forest where the Khandavadahana mentioned in the Mahabharata took place. An ancient sea-port of Kerala, Purakkad was, till the rise of Alleppey late in the 18th century, the principal place of shipping on the coast between Cochin and Quilon. It is mentioned by Varthema (1505) and Tavernier (1678) and it figures prominently in the Portuguese and Dutch records. The Dutch East India Company had a factory here. It passed to Cochin in 1678 A.D. and then to Travancore in 1746 A.D. The ruins of the European fortifications stood here till the closing years of the 19th century. Even after the foundation of Alleppey ships used to

call at Purakkad in the monsoon season. The people of Purakkad have been sea-faring through the ages and even as late as 1770 they owned ships and Pattamara and traded with Ceylon and with the coastal ports of South India. Several valuable articles were exported and imported from here. From the prosperous sea-coast town that it was, Purakkad has now dwindled into a small fishing village vulnerable to serious sea erosion every year,

Purakkad has a sizable population of Konkani or Gowda, Sarawaths. One of the most important of their temples, viz., the Venugopala Devaswam, is situated here and it is visited by the members of the community from all parts of Kerala. Though the main deity here is Sri Venugoplamurthi, there are also others such as Siva, Nagakanyaka, Garuda, Mahalakshmi, Hanuman, Bhairava, Ganapathi, etc. There are two annual festivals here, one in Makaram (January-February) and another in Medam (April-May). The former lasts for 9 days and the latter for 7 days. A Guest House is maintained by the Devaswam very near to the temple for the accommodation of the visiting devotees. The temple is managed by a local committee of ten persons.

Purakkad has an old Syrian Catholic Church, established in 1607, which is located on the eastern side of the National Highway 47. In the vicinity of the Church may be seen an ancient mosque. One furlong to the north of the mosque is the Ayyan Koikkal Sastha temple. There are also two other temples at the place, viz., the Murikkoli Bhagavati temple and Anandeswaram Siva temple. The existence of the temples, church and mosque in close proximity to one another is proof of the existence of communal harmony among the people of the locality from very early days.

Shertallai (Shertallai Taluk) (9° 40' North Latitude and 76° 20' East Longitude)

The headquarters of the Shertallai Taluk, the Municipal town of Shertallai has an area of 6.27 sq. miles (16.19 sq Km.) and a population of 31,155 (1961 Census). The town has attained fame as the seat of one of the most important Bhagavati temples of Kerala. The temple attracts devotees from all parts of the District during all seasons. The image of Bhagavati in this temple is said to have been consecrated by Vilvamangalam Swamiyar. There is a local tradition that the Swamiyar saw the Devi on a swing and

approached her. Thereupon the Goddess ran away. On being pursued at close quarters she jumped into seven tanks in succession and it is in the last of these tanks that the temple now stands. The *utsavam* (*Puram*) in this temple is celebrated every year in Meenam (March-April) and lasts for eight days. Four *talapols* (one on each day) are conducted on four consecutive days immediately preceding the *Kodiyettu*. They consist of rice or paddy and flowers of the areca palm being placed in pans with a small light in the middle and carried by females (one from each house in the area of all ages arrayed in their best robes and jewels. A male devotee with an *Ashtamangalyam* and light in hand leads the line and a huge concourse of males with *arpu* cheering and females with *kurava* cries accompany them. On reaching the temple, the procession makes several circumambulations. The contents of the *Thala* are emptied on a mat spread at the eastern entrance of the temple.

The sacred flag is hoisted on the day of *Mukeeram* asterism after the fourth *talapoli*. In other temples the *arat* is the last event of the *utsavam*. In Shertallai, however, there is *arat* on every day and this too is celebrated twice a day except on the first and last days. The image is taken in procession to one or other of the seven tanks, mentioned above, each situated a few miles from the temple. From the fifth day (Ayilyam star) *Kettukazhas* are arranged in their proper places. They consist mainly *Annams* and *Bhimans*. Most of the figures are symbolic representations of puranic incidents. The heroes are mounted on *chakatams* or four-wheeled chariots, which are drawn from one place to another. In the night a procession of the *karakkur* starts from near the bazaar and proceeds to the temple, with the beating of drums, the clash of cymbals and the blowing of horns and pipes. Then, after the usual *arat* and *sribelis* every night begins, what is known as *Putayani* or torch-light dance. The *karakkur* begin the dance frantically with the beat of drums, *thappas*, etc. This is brought to a close by a display of fireworks. The *Putayani* is a mock fight kept up to commemorate the heroic deeds of the Goddess against a host of Asuras.

The *Vela Tullal* is another important function. The *cheruvarakar* draw their *Annams* (huge images of the celestial swan, Brahma's vehicle) round the temple and make them bow to the deity. On the sixth day, before the *Vela* commences, a grand procession is formed, supposed to be by the Cochinites who enter the temple by

the western entrance and after going one round disperse to take part in the *Vela*. After Karappuram was ceded to Travancore, the *Annam*s remained with the Travancore Sirkar and instead of the *Cochin*ites, the northern *Karakkar* themselves take part in the *Vela* which begins at 2 P.M. The *Annam*s are then drawn to the temple the *Patiyaveetil* Panikkar's being the first. The festival *Puram* on the seventh day being on in commemoration of the consecration, people from distant parts congregate to participate in it. Towards the close of the function the *Annam*s and the *Rhimans* are removed from the temple precincts. The *vasati* in the evening of the next day is a calm but beautiful sight. The Devi's image is escorted on either side by the images of Siva and Vishnu mounted on elephants and then taken in procession to the tank (*Pallikulam*) with the usual paraphernalia. The *Puram* was originally an occasion for the singing of coarse songs and drinking. The practice was abolished during the Regency of Setu Lakshmi Bai (1924-31). The characteristic *Vazhipadu* (offering) in this temple is what is called *Tadi*. It is a special preparation made of rice, jaggery, coconut, etc., and considered to be particularly sacred.

In addition to the Bhagavati temple there is an important Syrian Catholic Church at Muttam in the town. It is dedicated to St. Mary. The festival in this church falls on 21st January every year and it attracts pilgrims from all parts of the District and outside.

Mention may be made in this connection of the Dhanwantari temple, Maruthorvattam in the southern outskirts of Shertallai town. It is situated about 12 miles north of Alleppey town on the Alleppey-Shertallai Road. The temple is one of the very few dedicated to Dhanwantari in Kerala. The term Maruthorvattam is believed to be the corruption of the word *Marunnoru vattam* (One doze of medicine) and signifies the local belief that just one doze of medicine administered to the patient from the temple is enough to cure him of any disease. The *talkari* offered from here on New Moon day in the months of Tulam (October-November), Kumbham (February-March) and Karkatskam (July-August) is believed to be a panacea for all ills. The temple is now managed by a committee set up by the local N.S.S.

The Civic affairs of Shertallai are managed by Municipality which was set up in 1953. There are a few important offices in

the town eg., the Taluk Office, the Assistant Educational Office, Police Station, Sub-Registry Office, etc. The town has Munsiff's Court and an additional First Class Magistrate's Court. There is a Government Hospital in the town with provision for 96 beds. The Sri Narayana Medical Mission Hospital and Green Gardens are important private Hospitals. There is also a Junior Technical School in the town. One of the important monuments in the town is the one erected in front of the Taluk Office as memorial to 112 persons from the town and suburbs who are said to have taken part in the First World War and achieved martyrdom.

TAKAZHI (KUTTANAD TALUK)

Situated four miles east of Ambalapuzha, Takazhi is the seat of a famous Sasth temple. Thousands of devotees throng to this place all through the year. The fame of the temple lies in the special oil called "*Valia Enna*" supplied to the mentally sick patients who go there for favours. It is also visited by persons suffering from acute skin diseases and leprosy. The annual *utsavam* in this temple falls in the month of Kumbham (February-March) and lasts for 8 days, the last day being the day of *Utham asterism*. The temple authorities have built quarters for the accommodation of the visiting pilgrims. An English High School attached to the Takazhi Devaswam is being run under the management of the Travancore Devaswan Board. In addition to the temple, there is a Catholic Church at the place which comes under the Archdiocese of Changanassery. There is also a mosque at Takazhi.

Tannirmukkam (Shertallai Taluk) 9° 40' North Latitude and 76° 20' East Longitude,

Tannirmukkam, situated on the western shore of the Vembanad lake, in the site of the bund and regulator under construction under the Kuttanad Development Scheme. The work on the Tannirmukkam barrier was formally inaugurated by V.K. Krishna Menon on February 3, 1958. When completed it would benefit large areas of paddy fields in Kuttanad. There is also a large temple at Tannirmukkam where the main deity is Vishnu. Siva is also one of the deities here. In addition, there is a Syrian Catholic Church which is under the Archbishop of Ernakulam.

Tiruvalla (Tiruvalla Taluk) (9° 20' North Latitude and 76° 30' East Longitude)

Tiruvalla, the headquarters of the Tiruvalla Taluk, is a municipal town with an area of 5.59 sq. miles (14.48 sq. Km) and a

Population of 24,242 (1961 Census). Situated on the Manimala river it is one of the most important of the 64 *gramams* or ancient Brahmin villages of Kerala. The town derives its name from the great temple of Sri Vallabha (Mahavishnu) which is celebrated in the songs of Nammalwar (9th century A.D.). It is one of the 13 *Divyadesams* of Kerala sacred to the Vaishnavites. The present site was chosen for the temple because there existed here in ancient days a naturally formed spring-fed pool of pure, cool and crystal water. The region around the pool was known as *Mallikavanam*, i.e. the 'Jasmine-grove' where *kishis* used to do penance. A colony of Brahmins and Vellalas who later came to the place from the Tamil country cleared a portion of *Mallikavanam* and installed in it *Sudarsana*, the discus of Vishnu. The place came to be called *Chakrapuram* (city of Vishnu's discus). Some time later Vishnu himself was installed in the shrine under the name of Sri Vallabha (Lakshmi's husband). Tradition connects the image of Vishnu so installed with *Satyaki*, a great friend of Sri Krishna. The place hereafter came to be called *Sri Vallabhapuram* (Vishnu's city). Later it became '*Tiruvallavazh*' and the name *Tiruvalla* is only an abbreviation of this name. The ancient pool still exists under the name *Ilavanti Tirtham* or *Patruvanitirtham* within the temple premises. It may be mentioned that such natural pools are rarely seen in temple premises.

The outer sanctum or *Srikoil* is circular in shape with a circumference of about 16' and has two doors opening to the east and west in front of Sri Vallabha and *Sudarsana* respectively. The floor and circular wall are of Polished granite slabs of dark hue and the roofing is of copper Plates. Besides Sri Vallabha and *Sudarsana*; there are also idols of Lakshmi, *Varahamurthi* and *Dakshnamurthi* installed in the inner *Sri Kovil*. In a small room at the northern end of the western hall of *nalambalam* there are images of *Siva*, *Bhagavati* and *Ganapathi*. Besides, there are two shrines, one of *Sastha* and the other of *Ganapathi* to the south east of the western *gopuram*. A shrine of the god *Kurayappan* (*Guruvayurat* in Sanskrit) may be seen south-west of the *Ilavanti* tank.

One of the architectural marvels associated with the *Tiruvalla* temple is its flagstaff a round column of black granite about 50' high and 2' in diameter. It has not been Possible to ascertain the length of the portion of this column that lay buried. In view of the absence of

Granite rock within a radius of five or six miles of Tiruvalla, the installation of this column in the temple premises is considered an astonishing engineering feat. On the top of the flagstaff is a Panchaloha or five metal image of Garuda, Vishnu's vehicle, in winged human form, about 3' tall in sitting Posture. The image is ever bright and requires no Polishing. The granite Column is enclosed inside a structure which looks like a three-storeyed minaret, but the top end with the image of Garuda is visible. Some writers have expressed doubt whether the Pillar could have been the handwork of Buddhist stone masons.

Another architectural wonder associated with the temple is an underground strong room with only a single horizontal door opening into it from the south-western portion of the floor of the quadrangle (Nalambalam). The treasures of the temple such as ornaments, cooking vessels, lamps and articles of gold are said to be kept here. No attempt has been made to open the mysterious cellar out of mortal fear of the consequences. Again there is in the central sanctum of the temple, in addition to the principal fixed image of Vishnu, a heavy movable Vishnu image made of pure molten gold which only a very strong man can lift. There are also some wall paintings of deific figures in this temple, e.g., those of Dwarapala, Sudarsana, Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganapathi, Narasimha, Hiranyakasipu and Prahalada Sri Krishna plying on the flute in the midst of Gopa women, Krishna driving Arjuna's car, etc. A beautiful wooden carving of Vishnu resting on Anantha may be seen on the beams of the western elephant shed in the temple premises. The temple has also some important epigraphical records in Vattezhuthu associated with the reigns of the great Chera Emperors Rajasekhara Varma (820-44), Sthanu Ravi (844-85), etc. The Tiruvalla temple is also famous for the encouragement it gives to various Kerala arts. Kathakali is performed here often as an offering by devotees. The Vishu day in Medam (April-May) is particularly important in this temple and large number of devotees come here on this occasion. Till recently women were not generally admitted into the shrine. They could enter the Nalambalam of the temple only on Vishu day and also on Tiruvathira day in Dhanu (December-January). This restriction has, however, been removed with effect from Chingam 1, 1143 (August 17, 1957).

In addition to the Vishnu temple there are a number of minor temples in Tiruvalla town e.g., the Eranakavu Bhadrakali temple, the

Govindakulangara Bhadrakali temple, Siva temple of Kesapuram Siva temple, of Aniruddheswaram Vishnu temple of Sri Narayanan-Puram etc. Tiruvalla is an important centre of the Marthoma Syrian Christian community. The headquarters of the Marthoma Metropolitan is here. The St. Thomas Evangelical Church, an offshoot of the Marthoma Church, has its headquarters too in Tiruvalla. In addition, the Malankar Syrian Catholic Bishop of Tiruvalla and the Orthodox Syrian Bishop of Niranam have also their headquarters in Tiruvalla. The Paliyakara St. George Church Tiruvalla, coming under the Niranam Diocese is an ancient one. The annual festival here falls on 23rd Medam (May). There are two Syrian Christian churches, each about a century old, viz. the Chalakupuzhi and Kattaprazha churches. The Cathedral of St. John (established in 1933) comes under the Catholic Diocese of Tiruvalla. There is a mosque near the Rest House in Tiruvalla. The civic affairs of the town are managed by a Municipality. Tiruvalla has a number of public offices eg. Taluk Office, the District Educational Office, etc. The Mar Gregorius Memorial High School and the Syrian Christian Seminary School are among the oldest educational institutions of the place. The Marthoma College, Tiruvalla, is an Arts and Science College. In addition, there is also the Titus II Teachers' Training College. Apart from the Government Hospital, there are also a few private hospitals in Tiruvalla, e.g., the Tiruvalla Medical Mission Hospital, Pushpagiri Hospital etc. The Rest House, Tiruvalla, provides comfortable accommodation to tourists. The Ramapuram Market in the town, held on every Tuesday and Friday, is the oldest in the Taluk. There are two important industrial concerns near the town, viz., the Pamba Sugar Factory Pulikeezh and the Straw Board Factory, Parimala. Among the main social service organisations in the town may be mentioned the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

TIRUVANVANDUR (CHENGANNUR TALUK)

Tiruvannandur, situated on the Manimala and Pamba rivers, is one of the most important Hindu Pilgrim centres in this District. It is famous as one of the 13 Divyadesams of Kerala sacred to the Vaishnavites. The Vishnu temple where the images of Vishnu and Gopalakrishna worshipped by Nakula, on the five Pandavas, are believed to have been consecrated by the legendary Bhrigu Muni, is in Tiruvannandur. It may be mentioned here that Tiruvannandur is one of the five sacred places where the Vishnu images worshipped by the five Pandavas said to have been consecrated, the other four

being those of Trichittat Tirupuliyur, Tiruvaranmula and Trikkodithanam consecrated by Yudhishtira, Bhīma, Arjuna and Sahadeva respectively. All the five places are visited on the same day by Vaishnava devotees.

Tiruvavandur it self is beleived by some to be the corruption of the word "Tirupandavayur" i.e., the place sanctified by the residence of the Pandavas. According to local tradition the Pandavas lived in the forests of the region along with Panchali during their 'Vanavasa'. Some other places in the vicinity evoke even today memories of the their association with the Pandavas. A Place in the neigbburhood is called Pandanad, a corruption of 'Pandavanad'.

The shrine of Tiruvavandur is celebrated in the *Tiruvaimozhi* of Nammalwar, the great Tamil Saint assigned to the 9th century AD. The temple which fell within the territory of Nantuzhainad flourished during the period of the Kulasekharas (800-1102 A.D.) as is evidenced by some of the lithic records preserved in this temple. The inscriptions found in this temple of the Venad ruler Sri Vallabhan Kothai who was appointed by the Chera Emperor to rule over Nantuzhainad also show the high esteem in which the temple was held in those days. During the period following the fall of the Kulasekhara empire early in the 12th century the affairs of the Tiruvavandur temple were mismanaged and it fell on evil days. In the 16th century the temple was owned by the local Namboothiri *illam* of Gnazhapally. It is believed that the Chempakasserī Raja made a bold bid to obtain possession of the image of Gosala-krishna at Tiruvavandur for installing it in his newly built temple at Ambalapuzha and that this was foiled by the chief of this *illam* by drowning himself in a nearby tank along with the image. The Vishnu shrine however, continued to exist. During the reign of Sri Mulam Thirunal (1885-1924) it was renovated. The present lofty *Srikovil* was built then at a cost of Rs.80,000.

Tiruvavandur shot in to the lime light in 1963 with the discovery of an image of Gosala-krishnan from a nearby tank. It is believed that this is the same image with which the Namboothiri trustee drowned himself in the 16th century in order to elude capture by the Chempakasserī Raja's men. The image was obtained under sensational circumstances. A local devotee by the name Damodaran who was a teacher in the local Government Primary School is alleged to

thave had a dream in his sleep one night in March 1963 informing him of the existence of an image of Gosalakrishna in an ancient tank lying to the east of the existing shrine. The tank had been filled in long ago and was no longer visible to the human eye. The devotee was informed in his dream that the image which lay 7½ ft. deep buried in mud in the tank should be reclaimed and installed above ground level in the temple premises. In pursuance of this dream the local people later offered Sramadan and carried on a major digging operation at the place until they obtained a perfect image of Gosalakrishna, a Sankha and several Puja utensils. While the image was obtained on May 19, 1963, the 41st day of the 'Sramadan', the others were obtained earlier. The image was consecrated with due ceremonies in a small shrine specially constructed for the purpose in the old temple premises. Stories soon began to spread of the miraculous powers of the new deity and the favours conferred by him on the devotees. Thus Tiruvannandur regained its old place of preeminence as a centre of Hindu Pilgrimage. A new temple has been built at the place and the deity reconsecrated here in May 1967. The shrine is now being visited every day by hundreds of devotees from all parts of Kerala and outside.

TIRUVIZHA (SHERTALLAI TALUK)

Situated three miles south-west of Shertallai town, Tiruvizha is the seat of a famous Siva temple. A special decoction is given as *Prasadam* from this temple to the visiting pilgrims who want to be cured of mental ailments. It is supposed to possess medicinal properties and is considered to be particularly effective as an antidote against poison about which the mentally sick persons generally complain. The temple is visited daily by people from all parts of the State in order to consume this divine *Prasadam*. Those who partake of it start vomiting severely after a time and it is believed that all evil influences are literally vomited out. Perhaps the continued existence of the custom of supplying such medicinal preparations in temples like Tiruvizha is a legacy of Buddhism, which with its concern for the sick and suffering, had considerable hold over large portions of this District in the ancient past. Mrs. Hatch writes as follows about the origin and importance of this temple. "The jungle country all about this part was frequented only by those women whose life work was to tattoo people."

One day a woman wandering through the jungle was surprised to see blood issue from the ground where she had thrust her stick. She found her stick had pierced a tall cylindrical object like a Siva *lingam*. She at once went to the owner of the property with her story, and the local astrologer pronounced the object a real *lingam*. The night after the consecration of this *lingam*, the priest was told in a vision that Siva himself had come here to protect the world from the influence of black magic. Siva then revealed the secret that a certain herb when plucked would show bloodied roots, and if this herb were given to persons possessed by evil spirits, it would cure them. To this day people of all sorts-Hindus, Christians and Mohammedans-resort to this temple to be cured. It is said the temple is probably not much over four hundred years old."¹

TOTTAPALLI (AMBALAPUZHA TALUK)

A place of strategic importance in former times. Tottapalli which lies in the vicinity of Purakkad was the scene of bitter fighting between Travancore forces and the army of the Chempakasseri Raja. The importance of the place lies at present in the Spillway constructed here in 1954 to divert the flood waters of Kuttanad into the sea. The spillway forms part of the National Highway 47. About 150 families have been settled at Tottapalli under the colonisation and settlement scheme. A Straw Board Factory has started functioning at the place on the south-western side of the Spillway with effect from 1965.

Trikunnapuzha (Karthikapalli Taluk) (9° 15' North Latitude and 76° 20' East Longitude)

Trikunnapuzha is the seat of an important Sastha temple situated on the beach. The village was at once time included in the Edapilli Edavaka and there is a place here even now. There is a view that the ancient Buddhist shrine of Sri Mulava-am was situated in this village and that it was destroyed by sea erosion in the ancient past. It was at nearby Pallana that the great Malayalam poet Kumaran Asan met with accidental death by drowning in 1924. Turavur (Shertallai Taluk) 9° 45' North Latitude and 76° 15' East Longitude)

Turavur is the seat of the richly endowed Tirumala temple belonging to the Gowda Saraswaths. The temple is said to have once belonged to one Ravala Naickan. The Naickan while asleep

¹ *Travancore*, Emily Gilchrist Hatch, pp. 45-46.

had a vision pointing to a direction where in he could dedicate his idol Venkatachalapathi. The area Surrounding the temple in its present location was full of thick forests and green vegetation. The forests were cleared and converted into fertile fields. with the lapse of years the Naickan found it impossible to carry on his normal duties. He had no confidence in the local public and the temple was handed over to Cochin Tirumala Devaswam for managment in 879 K.E. (1704 A.D.) The temple is now under the administration of the Alapuzha Ananthanarayanapuram-Turavur Tirumalas Devaswam which has under its control the Gowda Saraswath temples of Alleppey, Kozhencherri and Varapuzha as well. In addition, the Arthikulanga Bhagavati temple Turavur originally belonging to the Kudumbis of the locality is also under the management of this Devaswam. The Tirumala Devaswam Medical College, Alleppy, the T.D. School Turavur and the Training School, Turavur are also under the management of this Devaswam.

In addition to the Gowda Saraswaths there is another temple at Turavur which is under the control of the Travancore Devaswam Board. It is dedicated to Lakshmi Narasimha. The temple is noted for some of the most exquisite wood carvings of Kerala illustrating Puranic scenes and figures. There is a mosque at Kuthitahodu in Turavur North village.

Vayalar (Shertallai Taluk (9° 40' North Latitude and 76° 15' East Longitude)

Vayalar, situated a mile and a half from Shertallai, is a place of political importance in the history of modern Kerala. It was one of the storm centres of the Communist uprising of 1946 and hundred of Communists fell victims to police firing. A 'Martyrs' Platform (Raktasakshi Mandapam) erected at the place and a few coconut trees with large holes created by the bullets that pierced through them during the rising proclaim the story of the upheaval even today. At Pattanakkad in Vayalar west village is a mosque called Peonkavil Puthenpalli. The ponnampveli daily market functions in this village. In Vayalar East village is located an Irrigation Project viz. Puthenchira Plasserichira.



D.VARAP' LAKA (Kaviyur Temple)



BHAIKAVU BUDDHA



TYPICAL SCENE—Alleppey Town



सत्यमेव जयते



NIRANAM CHURCH



सत्यमेव जयते



MANNARASALA TEMPLE



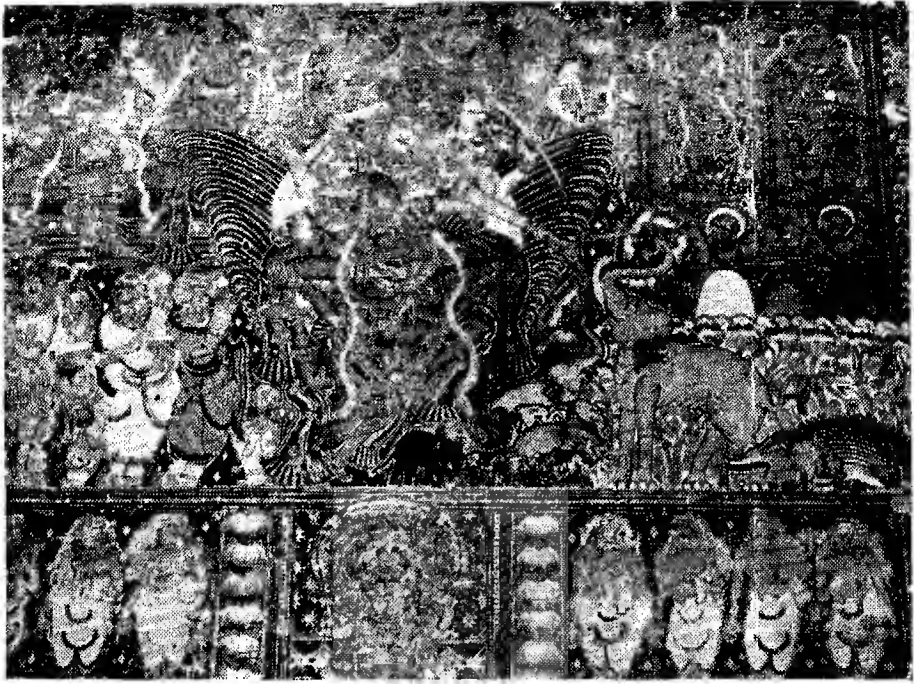
मन्मथेव जयते



M. S. M. COLLEGE KAYAMKULAM (Front Elevation)

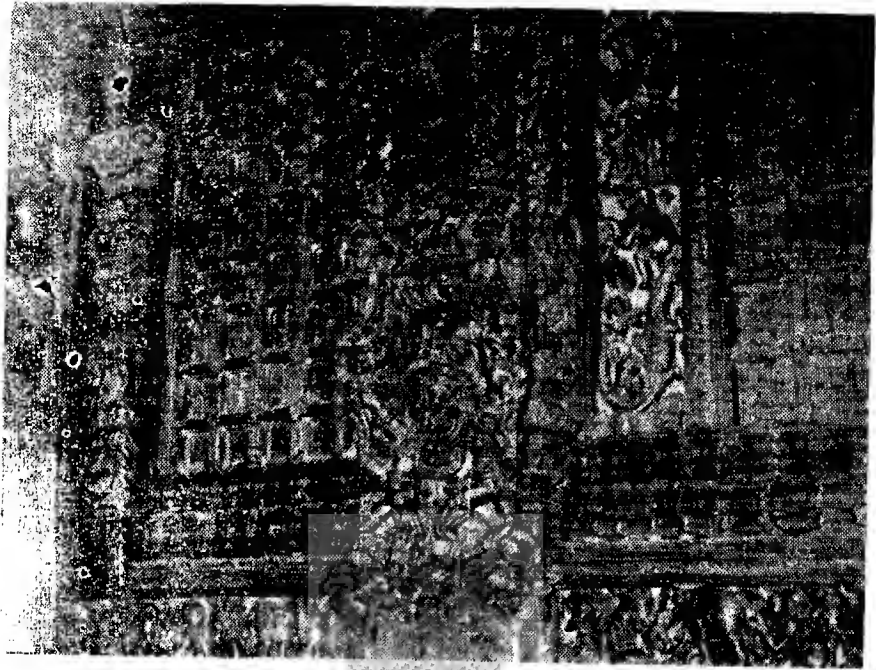


मन्त्रमेव जयते



GAJENDRA MOKSHAM (Mural painting)
(Krishnapuram Palace, Kayamkulam)

सत्यमेव जयते



WOODCARVING (Chathankulangara Narasimha Temple)



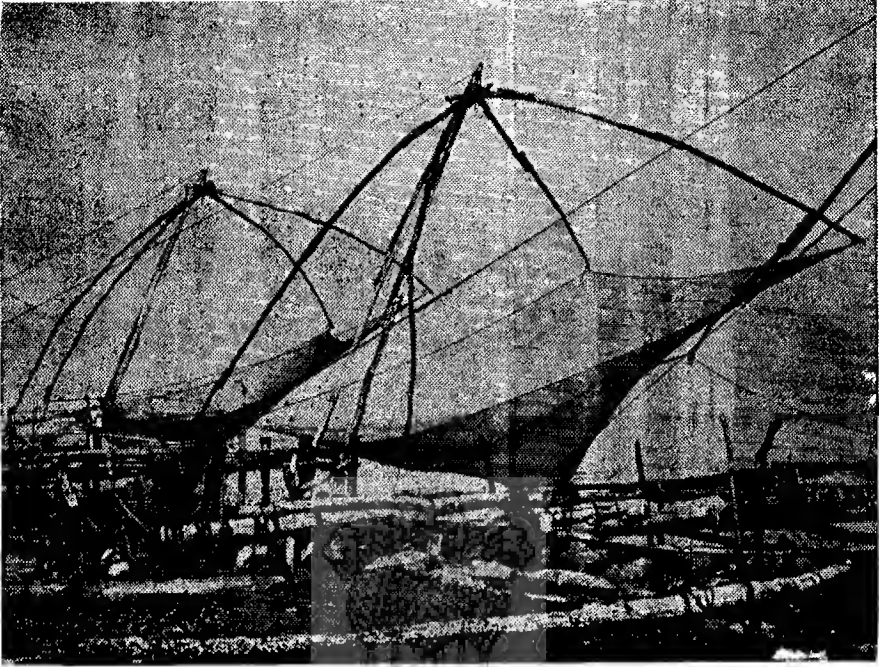
सत्यमेव जयते



LIGHT HOUSE, ALLEPPEY



GANESA (Kaviyur Temple)



CHINESE FISHING NET



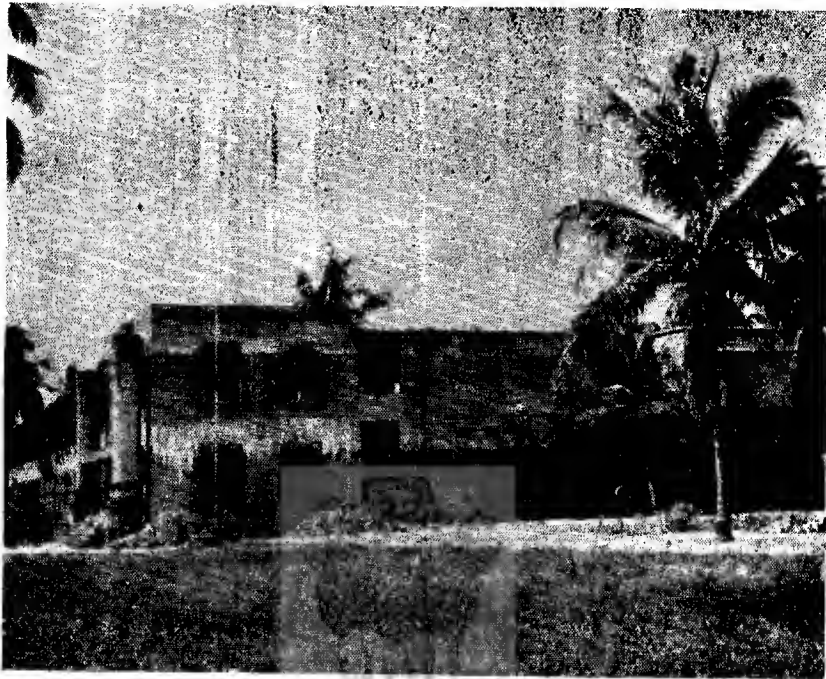
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WOOD CARVING (Chatharkulangara Temple, Chengannur)

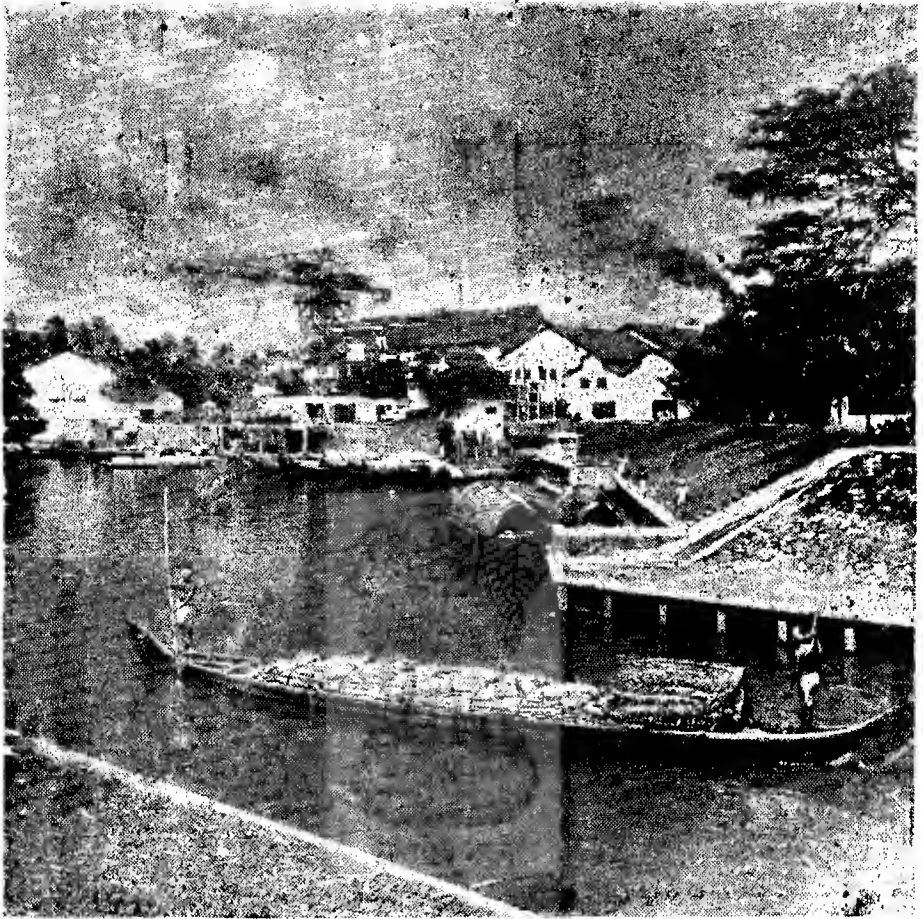


सत्यमेव जयते



M.S.M. COLLEGE, KAYAMKULAM (Southern side of the Main Building)





PAMBA RIVER FACTORY



THOTTAPPILLY SPILWAY



सत्यमेव जयते



KRISHNAPURAM PALACE



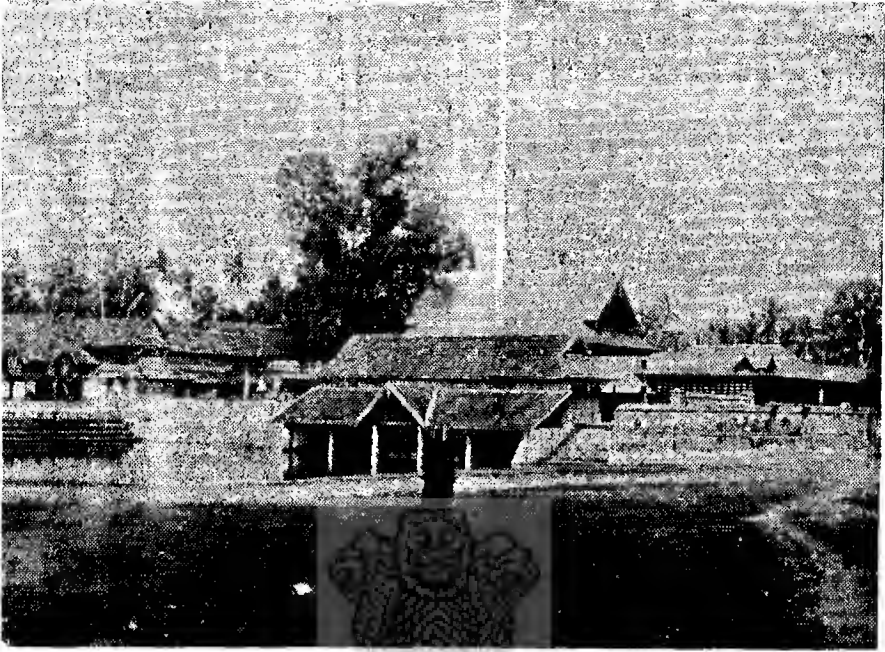
सत्यमेव जयते



SNAKE BOAT RACE



सत्यमेव जयते



AMPALAPUZHA SRI KRISHNASWAMY TEMPLE



सत्यमेव जयते



A TYPICAL SCENE ALLEPPY TOWN



सत्यमेव जयते



INSIDE VIEW OF NIRANAM CHURCH



सत्यमेव जयते



N.S.S. COLLEGE PANDALAM



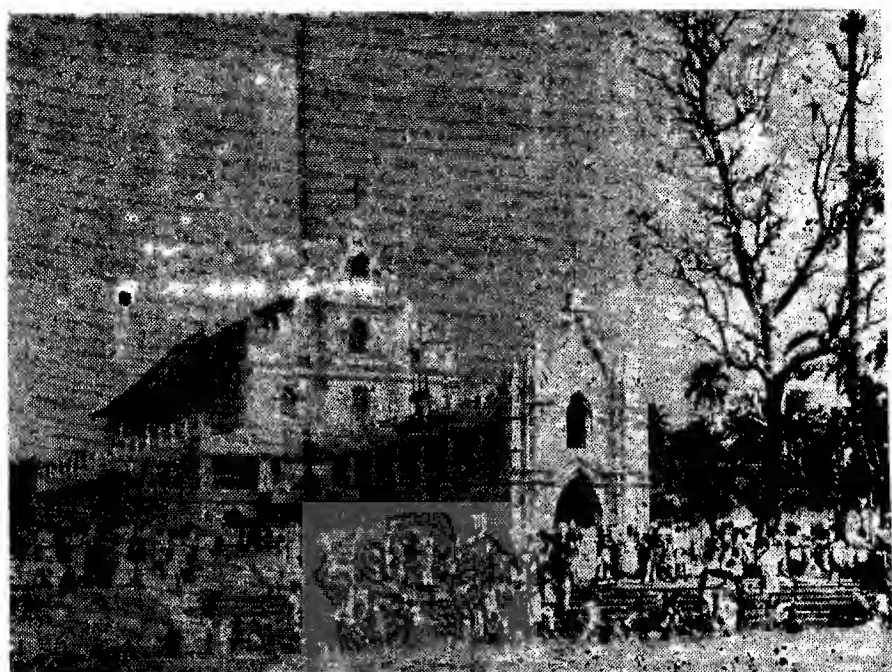
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KARUMADIKUTTAN (Stupa and Statue)



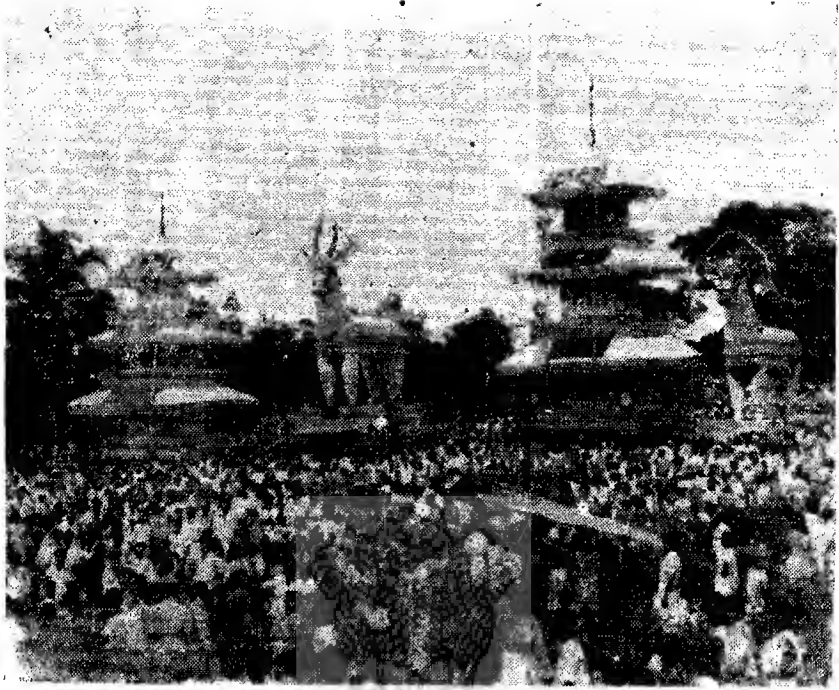
सत्यमेव जयते



EDATHWA CHURCH



सत्यमेव जयते



KUTHIRAKETTU FESTIVAL
(Olipurathu Temple, Thattayil)

सत्यमेव जयते



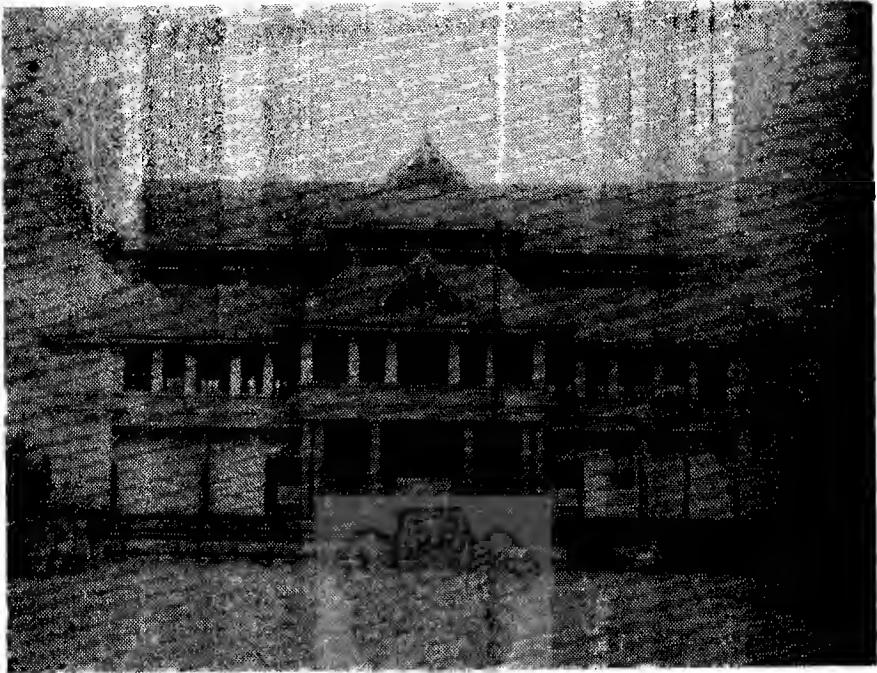
MAVELIKARA BUDHA



KAVIYUR ROCK-CUT TEMPLE



सत्यमेव जयते



MAHADEVER TEMPLE
(Chengannur)



सत्यमेव जयते



WOOD CARVING (Chathankulangara Temple, Chengannur)

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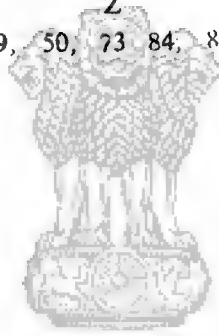
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